THE TIMES

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TODAY

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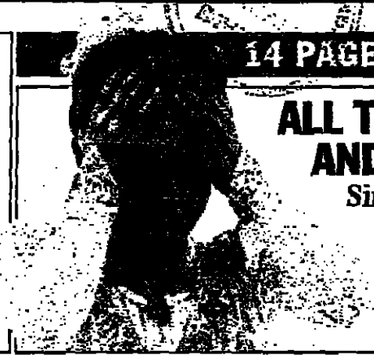
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THE PLEASURES OF HOUSEWORK

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Simon Barnes despairs for skating PAGE 27

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Newcastle save a point at Wimbledon PAGE 29

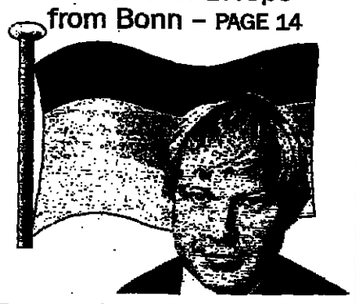
TODAY

10P

THIS WEEK IN THE TIMES

TODAY

Roger Boyes starts a new column on Europe from Bonn – PAGE 14



TOMORROW

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WEDNESDAY



THURSDAY

Books for Easter



John Habgood on the Oxford Dictionary of World Religion

Karen Armstrong on James, brother of Jesus

Plus: Last-minute travel bargains

SATURDAY

Boy Wonder

Leonardo di Caprio – a Romeo for the MTV generation

PLUS: WEEKEND, CAR 97, WEEKEND MONEY, 1015 FOR YOUNG TIMES READERS AND 7-DAY TV AND RADIO GUIDE IN THE DIRECTORY

New Army code to end ban on gays

BY MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

ARMY officers are drawing up a new code of moral conduct which would effectively remove the ban on homosexuals and change the current strict attitude towards adultery.

Senior Army officers rewriting the discipline and standards guidelines, which were last updated in 1993, believe it is no longer justified to treat individuals differently on the basis of their sexuality.

They want the Army Board to approve a new moral code under which only those individuals whose sexual activities can be shown to have a direct impact on a unit's operational effectiveness should face disciplinary action or administrative discharge.

"What we're talking about is sexual adventurism or overt sexuality, the kind of behaviour that can have a really bad effect on a unit," one Army source said.

Under the radical approach, gays and lesbians serving in the Army would not automatically face administrative discharge if exposed as homosexuals.

Although the proposed liberal code of conduct flies in the face of current Government policy, which still supports the ban on homosexuals, the new approach suggested by the senior Army officers is supported by top civil servants at the Ministry of Defence.

The change in attitude towards sexuality has been largely driven by the surge in legal cases involving homosexuals, lesbians and transsexuals who have been pursuing compensation claims in British and European courts.

Jack Straw, the Shadow Home Secretary, said last week that a Labour government would lift the ban on homosexuals in the Armed Forces.

The senior civil servants believe the Armed Forces must prepare themselves for significant changes across the whole spectrum of personal and sexual behaviour to bring them more into line with the rest of society and ensure that they cannot be accused of any form of discrimination.

Apart from the "inevitable" lifting of the ban on homosexuality, they say the strict codes governing officers who commit adultery will also have to be changed, provided their actions do not interfere with operational effectiveness.

The Government's position on homosexuality is that it is incompatible with military life because of the close physical conditions in which servicemen and women have to work and live. It has rigorously defended its policy in the High Court and Court of Appeal in a number of cases.

The Army's new moral code, expected to be completed before the end of the year, is likely to be far less proscriptive than the 1993 code, adopting a more sympathetic position on sexual orientation yet emphasising the importance of maintaining combat unity.

The 1993 code states that "anyone who admits to, displays the orientation of, or indulges in homosexuality, will be required to resign or be discharged". It also says that adultery, whether committed within the military community or outside, "is likely to prejudice the position of an individual and may bring the Army into disrepute".

General Sir Roger Wheeler, the new Chief of the General Staff, is known to be a pragmatic commander who is likely to give his approval to a more modern attitude towards sexual behaviour, although he has not yet sanctioned the radical stance being adopted by some of his senior officers.

Despite the belief at the top of the MoD civil service that changes in policy on homosexuality, adultery and other forms of sexual conduct are inevitable for all three Services, strong resistance remains in some parts of the ministry.

Royal Navy chiefs, in particular, are opposed to lifting the ban on homosexuality because they believe that in the close confines of a warship or submarine, the presence of known homosexuals would undermine morale and destroy operational effectiveness.

Admiral Sir Jock Slater, the Chief of Naval Staff and First Sea Lord, has made his position clear to ministers and his staff: he is adamantly opposed to any lifting of the ban on homosexuals. One Navy source said: "Some people believe that because of all the court cases, there will have to be a change in the present position, but this is not the view of the First Sea Lord. He thinks the MoD should fight these issues all the way, even through to the European courts."

However, unlike the Army's present position on adultery, the Navy takes no action or interest in any relationship that takes place ashore when individuals are off duty. The Navy source said: "That's an entirely private matter. All we are worried about is what happens on board ship or at a naval establishment."

Lesbian investigator, page 2

PETER NICHOLLS



Pete Goss and his wife, Tracey, embracing after he landed at Les Sables d'Olonne on the Biscay coast yesterday

French welcome British sea hero

FROM EDWARD GORMAN IN LES SABLES D'OLONNE

FRANCE took Pete Goss to its heart yesterday when the British yachtsman finished his epic solo round-the-world voyage and was welcomed by more than a hundred thousand people on a glorious spring afternoon.

Goss, 35, who finished in fifth place in the Vendée Globe and is the fastest Briton to sail round the world singlehanded with a time of 126 days and 21 hours, was overwhelmed by his reception at Les Sables d'Olonne on the Biscay coast. He was greeted by Raphael Dinelli, the French sailor whose life he saved in the Southern Ocean after his boat capsized. Goss is to receive the Légion d'honneur for his heroism.

"It's impossible really," he said. "I've been in solitary confinement for four and a half months and I've just bounced back into humanity. It's extraordinary — I feel very, very emotional and I am very privileged."

As his 50ft yellow-hulled yacht *Aqua Quorum* was shepherded slowly into the harbour by a flotilla of spectator boats, Goss stood on the foredeck waving at the people standing up to 20 rows deep on the harbour walls to applaud him.

The self-effacing Cornishman, who sold his house and ran up debts of more than £100,000 to take part in the race, could only mouth "this is just amazing," amid the din of boat horns, cheers, whistles and clapping.

When *Aqua Quorum* finally made it to the dock, Goss's wife, Tracey, was the first on board, enveloping him in hugs and kisses. Then came Philippe Jeantot, the race organiser, who has called Goss "the true hero of the Vendée Globe," and then his father Michael and mother Sally.

Next was Raphael Dinelli, whose life Goss saved in the Southern Ocean at Christmas when he turned *Aqua Quorum* into 70-knot winds and appalling seas to find the stricken

Continued on page 2, col 7

More Hamas suicide attacks threatened

TENSION in the Middle East increased yesterday as violence continued in various parts of the occupied West Bank and Hamas threatened to launch more suicide attacks against Israeli targets. Four people, including the bomber, were killed in a crowded Tel Aviv café last week.

Hamas said Yassir Arafat, the Palestinian leader, would not be able to crack down on its activities because it had an organisational structure in place and was ready to strike against Jewish targets based outside the areas under his control.

Talks reprieved, page 10



"They're all the same"

Hamilton 'accepted up to £60,000'

Mohamed Al Fayed, the owner of Harrods who triggered the cash-for-questions controversy, lost track of payments he made to MPs but claims that Neil Hamilton accepted between £40,000 and £60,000.

According to transcripts obtained by *The Times* the Egyptian-born businessman admitted to Sir Gordon Downey that he grossly underestimated the amount he paid to Tim Smith, the Tory MP for Beaconsfield.....Page 4

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Blair's CBI snub to unions

BY PHILIP WEBSTER POLITICAL EDITOR

TONY BLAIR and Gordon Brown yesterday stepped up Labour's efforts to woo business by promising a seat for the CBI on a high-level committee set up to prepare for Britain's presidency of the European Union in 1998.

In what will be seen as a further snub to the unions, Adair Turner, director general of the CBI, has been invited to serve on a special group that will plan ways of forcing the EU to open up more of its markets. Labour sources said that the unions would not be asked to serve on the committee.

The Shadow Chancellor hardened up his pre-election tax pledges by reaffirming to middle and higher income earners that a Labour government would not raise the ceiling on national insurance contributions, the plan felt to have contributed severely to Labour's defeat in 1992.

The move came as it was disclosed that Mr Turner had been consulted on the contents of a separate manifesto, to be released alongside the main party manifesto, which will be aimed at winning the support of Britain's bosses.

Mr Brown also made plain that not all privatised utilities would pay Labour's proposed windfall tax. He said that while all the utility companies sold off by the Tories would be "eligible" for the tax, if they had not made excess profits they would not be liable. Mr Brown's remarks added to speculation that the electricity and water companies will bear the brunt of the tax, while British Telecom will escape.

Kenneth Clarke will hit back at Labour's claims to be the party of business in interviews and at a press conference today.

The involvement of Mr Turner in the business manifesto preparation has added to suspicions among some union leaders that they are being sidelined, and that Mr Blair, rather than treating both sides of industry equally, is currently leaning towards the employers.

Labour sources admitted that with the CBI being a key player in the business and government working group on the British

Continued on page 2, col 5

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Baden-Powells condemn ruling on homosexual leaders



Baden-Powell: would not have approved

By Lin Jenkins

A DECISION by The Scout Association not to bar homosexuals from becoming leaders has been condemned by the family of the founder Robert Baden-Powell and by many volunteer organisers.

The adoption of an equal rights policy has sparked fresh controversy over whether enough is being done to set an example, in the original spirit of the movement, to the 500,000 girls and boys who now belong. Details of the policy were distributed at the end of last month and county commissioners are being briefed on how it should be implemented. It will be included in adult leader training.

Betty Clay, whose father started the movement in 1908 to develop the character and responsibility of boys, and who is a vice president of the movement, said her father would not have approved. "He was very much against any exceptionally unnatural ways of living and would not have liked people with odd tendancies to be leaders and the example for boys and young men to follow," she said.

One of the main tenets of the movement had always been to provide alternatives to bad behaviour, she said. "He knew very well the temptations for young men and had many letters from them. Having been through life himself he had many ways of facing up to them and overcoming them and these are what he prescribed in his books to young men. There are so many alternatives to bad behaviour."

Lord Baden-Powell, the grandson of the founder and also a vice president, said the move was "extraordinary" and is demanding an explanation for the decision.

Bill Walker, the Tory MP and chairman of the parliamentary Scout group, said the decision could damage the movement because those involved working with children were expected to conform to a conventional code. "The Scout movement is re-*quired to accept Christian* values and teaching, not trendy modern views that may not stand the test of time."

Only atheists and paedophiles are prevented from becoming Scout leaders under the new policy, which was formed as a result of a three-year review. Warren Hawksley, Tory MP for Halesowen and Stourbridge, said the decision was potentially catastrophic since it would lead to parents being put off allowing their children to become scouts regardless of whether there was a real risk.

Some of the movement's leaders have voiced their disquiet and threatened to resign if the policy is not changed. However, officials at the London headquarters have been quick to reassure them that the decision over who may become a leader rested with the local people.

John Fogg, of The Scout Association, said: "One of the problems about discussing this is that in some quarters there is belief that a homosexual is automatically a paedophile and this is simply not the case. We have vigorous procedures to keep the undesirables out and nothing in this policy undermines that."

The movement had canvassed a wide range of views from all those involved in scouting and none should be suprised that the equal opportunities policy was now in place.

Former officer tells of gays' fate in forces

By Carol Midgley

A WOMAN who was forced out of the Royal Military Police for being a lesbian has told of the techniques used to uncover homosexuals in the Armed Forces.

Caroline Meagher, a former staff sergeant with the Special Investigations Bureau, said that people's pictures and record collections were examined to provide "clues" to their sexuality. The story of Miss Meagher, 36, is told in a Channel 4 drama, *The Investigator*, written by Barbara Machin, to be screened in May.

Miss Meagher spent much of her career pursuing suspected lesbians in the services. Even when she began a lesbian relationship herself, she continued to conduct the investigations, fearing that she would be dismissed if her sexuality became known.

After 13 years' service, she became a subject of suspicion and was given the opportunity to resign rather than be sacked. "It is something that I will never be able to forget", said Miss Meagher. "Harrowing is a good way to describe it. I am not proud of what I did. Of course I regret it now.

"I want people to know what it is like to be gay when you are in the Army. The way you are treated is terrible, it is appalling and it is still going on."

Miss Meagher, who now lives in Edinburgh, joined the Women's Royal Army Corps upon leaving school aged 16 in 1977. She won a campaign medal for service in Northern Ireland and promoted to the rank of sergeant and later to the bureau. She was reponsible for monitoring and spying on any soldier suspected of being a lesbian.

Once enough information had been gathered they would be interrogated until they broke down and confessed.

Seven years ago she herself was interrogated after her letters were intercepted. "I was denied access to a lawyer," she said. "They told me they would not court-martial me and I had to put my notice in. *It was made clear I should* leave the Army."

Offenders spared jail more likely to return to crime

By Richard Ford, Home Correspondent

OFFENDERS who escape a jail sentence are more likely to re-offend than those sent to prison, according to a Home Office study published today.

The figures for non-custodial penalties such as community and probation orders have been seized on by the Conservatives as proof that prison is more effective. David Maclean, the junior Home Office Minister, said last night: "This is positive proof that prison works. I think it is *also a testament to improve*ments such as drug testing and more rehabilitation in taking place in prisons."

He added: "Among those in prison are generally the harder, more recividist offenders. To find there is a lower reconviction among the harder people generally sent to prison is heartening.

"Will all the anti-prison groups now stop lying about the evils of prison when compared to community sentences?"

He said it had to be recognised that community sentences had a vital role in the criminal justice system but so did prison. The Home Office study shows that 53 per cent of all prisoners released from jail in 1993 were reconvicted within two years. The comparative figure in 1987 was 57 per cent and in 1990 was 52 per cent.

It also showed that 47 per cent of adult males discharged from jail in 1993 were reconvicted within two years, 75 per cent of young male offenders and 40 per cent of females.

Among prisoners discharged in 1993 who were reconvicted, 29 per cent were given a prison sentence, 27 per cent fined; 15 per cent probation, 9 per cent community service and 5 per cent a combination order.

The Home Office study found that 57 per cent of offenders given a community *penalty in 1993 were reconvict*ed within two years of its commencement, a drop of two per cent on the 1991 figure.

For offenders given probation orders starting in 1993 the figure was 60 per cent, but for those ordered to attend a probation centre the figure was 74 per cent and 61 per cent for those given specified activities in the community.



Maclean: figures show that prison works

Reconviction rates for probation orders starting in 1987 were 53 per cent after two years, 64 per cent after four years, and 70 per cent after seven years. The comparable figures for offenders given community service were 55 per cent, 65 and 70 per cent respectively.

Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, yesterday admitted that the 11 per cent rise in *violent crime in 1996 was a* "regrettable part" of overall recorded crime which fell 1.3 per cent last year.

He was speaking on LWT's Jonathan Dimbleby programme in the first major live debate of the general election campaign. Mr Howard, debating with Jack Straw and Alex Carlile, warned of the danger of the European Court of Human Rights eventually ordering the release of Myra Hindley, the Moors murderer.

Hindley is to exhaust all remedies in the English courts before considering a challenge in Europe over Mr Howard's decision that she should spend the rest of her life in prison. Mr Howard said: "If the European Court of Human Rights were take that step, I think it would call into question whether we could continue to be signatories to the *European Convention on Hu*man Rights."

NIGEL BENNETT



Orangemen from Portadown, part of a parade of more than 600 Orangemen from both sides of the Irish Sea, passing St Paul's Cathedral yesterday

Brighton bomber reunited with IRA colleagues in jail

By Richard Ford
Home Correspondent

THE IRA bomber Patrick Magee is back with IRA colleagues in Maze prison despite being transferred from England to serve his sentence specifically in a Northern Ireland prison where republican and loyalist inmates mix.

Magee was moved from Maghaberry jail to the strictly segregated Maze seven months ago. He had been in Maghaberry since a transfer from Full Sutton jail, near *York, in September 1994.*

Magee is one of about a dozen terrorists, originally transferred from English jails to Maghaberry in Co Antrim, who have since moved to the Maze where there is strict separation of loyalist and republican inmates.

A spokeswoman for the Northern Ireland office said: "It is a matter for the Northern Ireland Prison Service to make operational decisions on where prisoners are detained."

Privately the Government has said that those prisoners who are moved go to Maghaberry because it has an *official policy of integration.* But a report on conditions in Maghaberry makes clear that IRA terrorists transferred to the jail quickly started agitating for a move to join other terrorists in the Maze.

After an unannounced inspection of Maghaberry in January 1996, Sir David Ramsbotham, the Chief Inspector of Prisons, said: "There were a number of prisoners, convicted of very serious offences in England, who had been allowed by the Home Secretary to be transferred from prisons in England. "Their transfer was specificially to Maghaberry *and their wish to transfer to* the Maze refused."

British hero

Continued from page 1

Frenchman whose own boat had sunk and who was trying to fend off hypothermia in a liferaft. Goss is to receive the Légion d'honneur, France's most celebrated award for bravery, for the rescue.

The bond between the two, who were together on *Aqua Quorum* for two weeks before Dinelli was dropped off at Hobart, is extraordinarily strong and will be acknowledged at Dinelli's marriage, when Goss will be his best man.

Goss said his voyage had surpassed all his expectations during his preparations last year, when he struggled to find the money to build the boat and to make it to the start. "Not in my wildest dreams," he said, looking tanned, tired and a little thinner than when he set out on November 3.

"You know, just the whole project has been a triumph against adversity. If I've learnt anything from this, it was my mum and dad who said you can do anything if you want to, and I know it's true now."

On the rescue of Dinelli, he said it had been a huge ordeal for him too, first of all getting the Frenchman aboard, and then nursing him, feeding him and giving him continuous counselling. "We gelled from the moment we met," he said. "We were kindred spirits anyway, but we developed this fantastic bond."

M Jeantot was effusive in his praise for the Englishman. "For me he is a very, very good sailor for sure," he said. "When we requested him to help with Dinelli, then, for me, he became a real hero because he took so many risks to help and save him. I am a sailor, and I know what it means to go and help somebody when *you are going along with no* sails and 70 knots of wind."

Upwardly mobile life of modern student

By David Charter
Education Correspondent

AN ELITE group of students at the foremost universities enjoys a lifestyle more in keeping with successful graduates, according to research published today. A survey of 20 leading universities, including Oxford, Cambridge, Birmingham and Manchester, found that one in ten students owns a mobile phone, one in four has a car and one in three owns a personal computer.

In spite of successive surveys showing increasing levels of debt, one in five graduates from the leading institutions said they would leave without an overdraft. However, many would have debts of £2,000 or more.

Martin Birchall, director of High Fliers Research, which carried out the survey of 5,000 final-year students, said: "People perceive students to be downtrodden, heavily in debt, drink too much and take too many drugs, but I don't think that is an accurate picture." One in four had tried drugs and nearly half said they could not live without alcohol.

Leading article, page 21

CBI role

Continued from page 1

presidency, business would be getting an input once accorded only to the unions.

Britain will have the presidency of the EU for the first six months of next year. Mr Brown said the so called Presidency Working Group would consider ways of breaking down barriers in the energy, telecommunications and financial services industries to make a reality of the single market.

The business manifesto, to be called "New Labour's Business Plan for Britain", will be approved by Labour's national executive on Wednesday.

Labour yesterday portrayed the document as further evidence that business has nothing to fear from a Labour government, and said that there would be more high-profile endorsements for Labour from business during the campaign.

Mr Blair and Mr Brown put the final touches to the document last Friday and it will be sent to thousands of businessmen across the coutnry.

Confirming the plans in an interview on BBC Television's *On the Record* programme, Mr Brown said: "I think this is a very important development because it shows that business and government can work together, both in Britain and Europe to achieve common aims."

Mr Brown, who has already ruled out raising income tax rates, said Labour's idea of a "progressive" tax system was to emphasise job creation rather than putting an extra burden on personal income. "I want to encourage jobs. I want to encourage incentives for jobs. I want particularly to get the long-term unemployed back to work and, therefore, I want a tax system that must *balance the need to create jobs* with the need for fairness," he said.

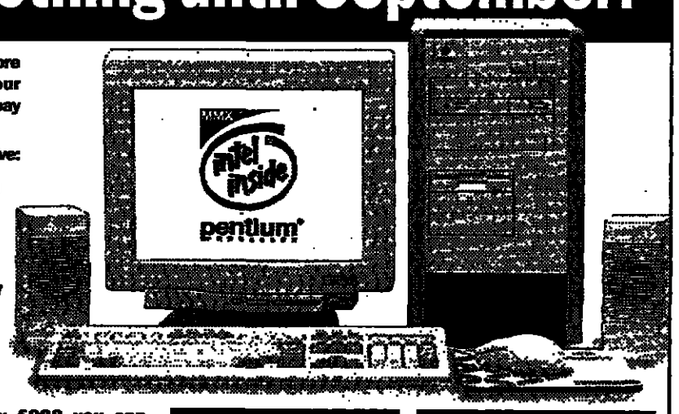
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YOUR HOME IS AT RISK IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON A MORTGAGE OR OTHER LOAN SECURED ON IT

British nominees suffer big-night nerves at thought of saying thank you in front of 2 billion people

Unknown faces bask in Oscar night limelight

BY DALYA ALBERGE, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

CINEMA history has been made by a little-known woman whose work has probably been heard by millions. Rachel Portman is the first female composer to be nominated for an Oscar.

She is one of 31 Britons to be nominated for the awards, which will be announced at the annual ceremony tonight. She was chosen for the music she wrote for *Emma*. Her score was inspired by folk music and aimed to support the dialogue "without telling everyone when to laugh". Her other credits include Steve Barron's *Pinocchio*, Norman Jewison's romantic comedy *Only You* and numerous television dramas.

The number of Britons nominated for Oscars this year has almost doubled since 1996. Out of 24 categories, Britons have a starring role in 18 of them.

Portman, 36, from Haslemere, Surrey, nominated for best original musical or comedy score, began composing at the age of 14. She turned to film when her tutor at Oxford warned her that she would not make it as a "serious" classical composer because her music was too melodic.

Her career began when she wrote a score for a film called *Privileged*, about Oxford students and made entirely by its subjects, which was sold to the BBC. It starred Hugh Grant, Imogen Stubbs and James Wilby. She sent a tape to Alan Parker, who passed it to Sir David Puttnam, who asked Portman to rescore a Channel 4 film, *Experience Preferred But Not Essential*.

"I don't feel I'm a female composer, just a composer," Portman said. Every film she takes on requires a different compositional style. Yet, she believes that her personality emerges through each one, "in the way I shape melodies, probably also the harmonies I lean towards".

Other unsung heroes of British cinema have also flown into Los Angeles, intent on having a good time. Among the craftsmen joining the Oscar party circuit for the first time are Tim Harvey, the production designer of Kenneth Branagh's *Hamlet*, which is up for four awards. "It feels unreal, not the sort of thing that happens to me," he said.

Also nominated for their work on *Hamlet* are Patrick Doyle for original dramatic score and Alexandra Byrne for costume design. Byrne said that choosing an outfit for the ceremony had been "a nightmare". Asked why she had not made something special herself, she explained that she cannot sew. She trained as an architect and did a postgraduate theatre design course: "I gradually made the crossover."

Stuart Craig, production designer on *The English Patient* (nominated for the art direction award) has been nominated five times before, winning for *Dangerous Liaisons* and *Gandhi*. Even so, he described the ceremony as nerve-racking.

"It's a hugely publicised television show," he said. "If you are a backroom boy, you're not used to that. If you win, you're talking to 2 billion people around the world. I'm not sure I want to talk to 2 billion people."

But one person who will not be going to the party — although his work has been indirectly recognised with a nomination — is Ivan Sharrock, the production sound mixer on *The English Patient*. He worked on only the last third of the film, and the man who worked on the other two thirds then had to hand over because of other work commitments — Chris Newman, an American — will be going instead. Sharrock said yesterday: "It's a little hard, but there are no sour grapes. I already have won an Oscar, for *The Last Emperor*, and a Bafta, for *The French Lieutenant's Woman*."


ROBIN MAYES

Rachel Portman, nominated for her score for *Emma*. She began composing for films after being told she would never be a serious composer


Alexandra Byrne with Kate Winslet on the set of *Hamlet*

Tea at the beach for foreign invasion force

FROM GILES WHITTELL IN LOS ANGELES AND GRACE BRADBERRY, STYLE EDITOR

BRITAIN'S Oscar nominees rolled down to the beach in a convoy of limousines on Saturday to soothe their nerves with tea and scones before tonight's prize-giving ritual turns them into winners and runners-up.

In a cavernous ballroom yards from the sands of Santa Monica, Kristin Scott Thomas, who has been nominated as best actress for her performance in *The English Patient*, made quiet conversation. Marianne Jean-Baptiste, nominated as best supporting actress for her role in *Secrets and Lies*, disclosed that she had borrowed diamonds to deck herself out for the ceremony, and the director Anthony Minghella patted everyone on the back for a British invasion of Hollywood.

"It feels as if the lunatics have taken over the asylum," said Minghella, hot favourite to be named best director for his *The English Patient*. Low-budget independent films have swamped the big studios, with four out of five nominees for the award for best picture being made without the help of Tinseltown.

Ralph Fiennes, one of *The English Patient*'s 12 nominees, was a notable absence from Bafta's annual pre-Oscar tea party, held at a hotel decorated in appropriately colonial style but sponsored by an American airline. The actor's co-star was a guest of honour. "I always ignored the fact that the cinema is a big, nasty industry," Scott Thomas said, dressing down in sandals and plain beige trousers.

"Now I've been thrown into an arena I never really recognised — but at least my market-value has gone up."

Scott Thomas may be up against four rivals for the title of best actress, but in the fashion world, hers is the only name that counts.

The British star is the woman every international designers wants to dress. Fashion shows are one thing, but endorsement from a film-star at the Oscars carries more weight. Scott Thomas — tall, chic, talented, tasteful — is their ideal clothes horse. "Everyone wanted to dress her," confirms her publicist, adding tantalisingly: "It's going to be a French designer."

But which one? Scott Thomas, who lives in Paris, appears to have visited every couture house in the city. When she appeared in the front row of John Galliano's show for Christian Dior, the deal seemed signed and sealed.

Not so, reveals a Dior spokeswoman. It is a similar story at Givenchy and Chanel.

The obvious contenders having ruled themselves — unless this is a case of elaborate double-bluff — attention turns to less likely candidates. Scott Thomas wore one of Christian Lacroix's creations for a *Vanity Fair* shoot last year. Could he be in with a chance? "We know she has tried some Lacroix dresses," said a spokeswoman. "But she has also gone to all the other couture houses."

In the meantime, Brenda Blethyn, who has been nominated as best actress for her role in *Secrets and Lies*, has plumped for Armani, for her Oscars outfit, — as has half of Hollywood. Emily Watson, who has been nominated for the same award, for *Breaking The Waves*, will wear a dress by the British designer Amanda Wakeley. Jean-Baptiste will be wearing a Gianni Versace dress.

One Briton whose head has definitely not been turned by Hollywood, despite the growing admiration for his work from aspiring directors there, is Mike Leigh, whose *Secrets and Lies* has been nominated as best picture. As is customary with Leigh, who has been nominated as best director, the film was created entirely through improvisation. "I have no plans to move here or work here," Leigh said.

"There are a thousand places I would rather make a film about than Los Angeles."


Jean-Baptiste: named for supporting role

Cab driver has a fare night out in Paris

BY ADAM FRESCO

A TAXI driver waiting on the rank at Heathrow Airport picked up the fare of a lifetime when a businessman ran out saying he had missed his flight to Paris.

Dave Coombs, 41, from Romford, east London, knew that at 9.30pm the man did not have time to catch the last Eurostar or coach from Victoria, so he offered to take him to Dover. "The man was worried that there wouldn't be transport at the other end and asked me to take him all the way to Paris," he said.

"It's a job you dream about, but I had no idea how much it would cost. I asked some guys on the radio. Some were saying £500 or £600 if it was on the meter, which was too expensive for him. In the end I settled for £300 and he paid all the travelling expenses.

"I phoned my wife and told her to get my passport ready. When I got home I offered him something to eat but he just stayed in the cab. It was a round trip of 580 miles, but it was good fun. He got to his important meeting and I got a nice evening out."

Boy stowaway found dead in jet from Kenya

BY KATHRYN KNIGHT

THE body of a boy was found in the wheel bay of a British Airways jumbo jet after it landed at Gatwick yesterday. Ground crew discovered the boy, aged between eight and 12, in an aircraft that had arrived from Nairobi.

He is believed to have frozen or suffocated to death as the plane flew at temperatures as low as -60F and an altitude of 32,000ft. Police searched beneath the flightpath for other stowaways who might have been accompanying the boy.

It is believed that the child clambered aboard the aircraft minutes before take-off from Nairobi and was trapped in the nosewheel bay before landing when the hydraulic system for lowering the wheels caught him by the legs. He suffered no apparent injuries. He was certified dead at the scene and a post-mortem examination is to be held.

Inspector Peter Cooper, of Sussex Police, said: "One can only guess at what spurred him into doing something so dangerous."

A spokesman for Surrey ambulance service, said: "This looks like a tragic case of misadventure. At the cruising altitude of this aircraft, the temperature could be as low as -60F and the oxygen level would be insufficient to sustain life."

The spokesman said that the emergency services had suspected that the boy had been accompanied because he was so young.

"It would be quite unusual for a boy of eight to stow away and fly to Britain on his own. It is likely there were others with him, possibly older children, and the fear is that they have fallen from the plane during its flight."

Last October two brothers stowed away in the wheel bay of a jumbo jet on a ten-hour journey from Delhi to London. Pardeep Saini was able to cling to the wheel as the plane landed at Heathrow, but his brother, Vijay, 18, died after falling out over Richmond, southwest London.

A spokeswoman for British Airways said that an investigation had been launched into the boy's death. "Safety is paramount to British Airways and we take this incident very seriously," she said.

Pilot is grounded in drink alarm

BY A STAFF REPORTER

A PILOT who allegedly flew an aircraft while under the influence of alcohol is being investigated after being ordered to land by alarmed air traffic controllers.

The 63-year-old pilot was escorted from the four-seater plane at Southampton airport after an erratic landing in which he was said to have swerved off the runway and almost hit a fence.

The man refused to give a breath test to police, but was seen by a police surgeon who confirmed that he had been drinking. His keys were confiscated and he was released pending an inquiry by the Civil Aviation Authority.

The man, from Denham, Buckinghamshire, had been flying to Jersey when he strayed into London air space on Friday. Air traffic controllers at Heathrow contacted the aircraft, but were concerned with the response they received from the pilot. A CAA spokesman said: "We are looking into it." The man could be charged with endangering aircraft or with endangering people on the ground.

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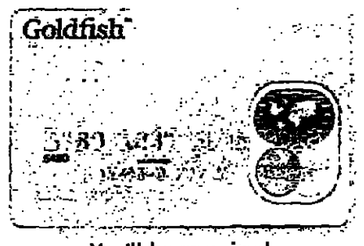
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Duchess's home on market for £3m

BY KATHERINE BERGEN

THE six-bedroom former home of Sarah, Duchess of York, goes on the market today for £3 million, or nearest offer.

Unable to afford the monthly rent of £6,000 for the house, Kingsbourne, on the Wentworth estate in Sunningdale, she has returned to her former marital home near by with the Duke of York.

The duchess removed all her personal effects in a pantechnicon two weeks ago, but signs of the family linger. Lady and Barclay, her two dalmatians, are still at Kingsbourne, as are their feeding bowls.

The house where the duchess confided in Ruby Wax last year has hundreds of nail holes bearing witness to the countless photographs she put on the walls.


Six-bedroom Kingsbourne is in need of some renovation

On the first floor, the duchess had a three-room suite with bedroom, dressing room and bathroom. Centrepiece of her boudoir was a divan bed made by the London Bedding Centre of Sloane Street. The labels on the drawers have gone, but the wardrobes still appear to bear the marks of the duchess's categorisation system. The bathroom was remodelled by the duchess in black and white, with a huge shower and tricorn bath. This is where she kept her vast collection of essential oils and bath products.

The children's room are painted in yellow and white checks, although the whole house is in need of renovation. The paint is flaking from the window sills in the duchess's bedroom. The 12-acre garden where she played tennis and swam with her daughters is likely to be one of the main attractions for buyers.

There is one other reminder of the duchess which will have to be dealt with before the agents Hamptons and Knight Frank can close the sale — the stack of her post which waits in the hall.

Disagreement on format puts TV debate in jeopardy



Mawhinney: no reason not to go ahead

BY PHILIP WEBSTER AND CAROL MIDGLEY

THE much-heralded election debate between John Major and Tony Blair was in the balance last night after the Conservatives accepted the format proposed by the broadcasters but Labour hardened their objections to it.

The Labour leadership made plain that in today's negotiations between the parties and the BBC and ITV it would insist on audience participation in the debate. However Brian Mawhinney, the Conservative Party chairman, said that Labour wanted to pull the plug because it feared that Mr Blair would crack under tough questioning. There were strong signs last night that Lord Irvine of Lairg, Mr Blair's negotiator, would take a tough line in today's talks. Apart from saying the audience should be allowed to question the leaders, he will also back the right of Paddy Ashdown to an equal hearing, putting another obstacle in the way.

Although Labour says it wants a debate, it sees no reason in giving it to the Conservatives on their terms. Labour believes that Mr Major is pressing for the confrontation now as a desperate measure to try to bite into the Labour lead. It believes that with Mr Major trailing so far behind in the polls, a draw would be a good result for him in the debate and sees no reason why Mr Blair or Mr Ashdown should bend over to accept the Conservative rules of engagement.

There is also irritation at the broadcasters for accepting the broad Conservative terms in their eagerness to stage what would be an historic electoral event. But Dr Mawhinney said yesterday that the Conservatives had accepted the "fundamental principles" of proposals from the broadcasters.

He said: "So far as we are concerned there is no reason for the debate now not to go ahead." Dr Mawhinney said the broadcasters agreed the main focus should be head-to-head debate between the two main leaders that it should be of sufficient length to be a true test and that Mr Ashdown should be included on a "fair basis". The debate should be conducted with dignity and not descend to a "bear-pit atmosphere."

Although Dr Mawhinney's statement did not say it, the Tories will today argue for two 90-minute debates. They accept there should be an audience in the studio but that there should not be audience participation.

There were also signs yesterday that the BBC is losing patience. Senior BBC executives feared that the broadcasters were being used as pawns in a point-scoring match between Labour and the Tories and had considered calling off negotiations. Labour's announcement last week that it wanted audience participation in the debate was regarded as another late attempt to move the goalposts, despite the fact that discussions about a possible debate have been taking place since January.

A source said: "The formats will have to be finalised by Thursday of this week to have a fighting chance of going ahead. After Thursday we are into Easter.

"The debates are provisionally scheduled for April 13, 20, or 27. That means the first debate will happen two weeks after Easter Sunday. For this to happen everything must be agreed and finalised by this week otherwise it becomes impossible to organise things in time."

Today representatives of the three parties will meet Marion Bowman, deputy controller of factual programmes for the ITV Network.

There are also plans for a meeting with Tony Hall, head of news and current affairs at the BBC. Michael Dobbs, the thriller writer and former Tory party deputy chairman, will represent Mr Major. Mr Ashdown has appointed Lord Holme of Cheltenham as his negotiator.

Al Fayed kept no record of alleged payments to MPs

BY ANDREW PIERCE, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE businessman Mohamed Al Fayed, who triggered the cash-for-questions controversy, kept no record of his payments to MPs but claims that Neil Hamilton accepted between £40,000 and £60,000.

It emereged yesterday that in his evidence to Sir Gordon Downey, the parliamentary standards commissioner who is investigating the affair, Mr Al Fayed appears to have grossly underestimated the amount he paid to Tim Smith, the Tory MP for Beaconsfield.

Transcripts obtained by *The Times* of Mr Al Fayed's evidence to the Downey inquiry disclose that he did not keep records of his alleged cash payments to MPs. Challenged directly by the inquiry about the amount of money he gave MPs, he replied: "It is really difficult to remember this. Hamilton maybe took £40,000, £50,000 or £60,000. Smith maybe about £10,000."

Mr Smith, who resigned as Northern Ireland Minister in October 1994, ten days after the Prime Minister was told about the undeclared transactions, has told Sir Gordon that he received between £18,000 and £25,000.

Mr Al Fayed bitterly criticised Mr Smith and Mr Hamilton, MP for Tatton, who were endorsed as election candidates by their Conservative associations at the weekend. He told Sir Gordon: "People like that have no dignity, no honour; they will sell their mothers for money."

The new disclosures came as the Government voiced hopes that the sleaze controversy would subside. One Tory MP, Richard Shepherd, backed calls for Parliament to be recalled to enable the Downey report to be considered. But there were signs that Labour, as well as Tory leaders, was trying to move attention to campaign issues. One Labour source said that sleaze had overshadowed several topics the party had hoped to highlight last week.

Michael Heseltine, the Deputy Prime Minister, said yesterday he would be happy for Mr Hamilton and Mr Smith to visit his constituency during the campaign, adding: "I would go to both of their constituencies and campaign for them, because in Britain we have a rather quaint idea of justice: you're innocent until you're proved guilty."

Alison Foster, a trainee solicitor who told a Sunday



Foster: question over her legal future

newspaper that she had put cash for Mr Hamilton into envelopes while a personal assistant to Mr Al Fayed, may face questions about her future career in the legal world. Mr Hamilton, in a submission to Sir Gordon, has asked whether she is suitable to be a solicitor having admitted taking part "in illicit activities".

In his evidence to Sir Gordon, Mr Al Fayed, the chairman of Harrods, is also highly critical of Sir Andrew Bowden, the MP for Brighton Kemptown, to whom he was introduced by the lobbyist Ian Greer. Sir Andrew is being investigated by Sir Gordon after admitting receiving £5,300 from Mr Greer for his constituency fighting fund. He has denied being paid £5,000 by Mr Al Fayed.

Mr Al Fayed maintained that he had given the money to Sir Andrew, and that the MP had telephoned the day next day to increase his demand. The relationship was ended.

Mr Al Fayed, who recruited Mr Greer to help him to overturn a report by the Department of Trade and Industry into his takeover of Harrods, which had called him a liar and a cheat, told the Downey inquiry that he felt "disgust" that MPs were prepared to accept financial inducements to do his bidding.

But under cross-examination he was unable to match the date of the alleged payment to Mr Hamilton with questions the MP had asked about the House of Fraser in the Commons. He was also questioned about the introduction of crucial new witnesses on the eve of the libel trial against *The Guardian* in September 1996, two years after the newspaper had published its original cash-for-questions allegations. Having always maintained he had paid the MPs himself, or through Mr Greer, he claimed days before the trial was due to begin that his secretaries, Ms Foster and Iris Bond, had "stuffed envelopes full of cash". Mr Al Fayed told Sir Gordon: "I am 64. Your memory goes and you cannot remember everything." But he insisted that he had not confused payments to Mr Hamilton, who has denied receiving money from him: "How, if I gave him the money with my own hands?"



PHILIP HOLLIS

Tony Blair talked to more than 100 of his party's prospective parliamentary candidates in marginal seats on a conference telephone link from his home in Islington, north London, yesterday. "We are doing well, but it is important that we are never complacent, that we continue to persuade people of the case not just against the Conservatives but for today's Labour Party," he said. The exercise will be repeated several times.

Women ignored by all parties, study says

BY JAMES LANDALE, POLITICAL REPORTER

THE three main political parties are ignoring the views of women, according to a report published today.

Politicians are failing to address the specific concerns of women, as well as refusing to take on board their opinions on mainstream issues. The conclusion comes in a report called *What Women Want on Politics* in which the views of almost 10,000 women are compared to policies.

With 1.5 million more women voters than men, the authors claim that women could have a key impact on the general election on May 1. The report, carried out by the Women's Communication Centre, a campaign group formed two years ago to promote female perspectives on political debate, says that key womens' issues are sidelined by the parties. They include decent childcare measures, domestic violence, part-time workers' rights, low and equal pay, support for carers, breast cancer research, removing VAT on sanitary protection.

At the same time, the report says, women's views on mainstream issues are ignored. For example, while the parties concentrate on combatting unemployment, women are more concerned with equal pay, access to pensions, flexible hours and parental leave. On Europe, women are more concerned with social rights and protection than a single currency or sovereignty.

The report also finds that women are more prepared to accept higher taxes to fund extra education, health and pensions than their male counterparts. The report is being sent to all sitting MPs and prospective candidates in marginal seats.

☐Almost one in three women have not yet decided how to vote, according to a MORI poll.

Veteran MPs not to stand

Labour Party chiefs are to draw up shortlists of potential candidates to replace two veteran MPs who have announced their retirement.

Doug Hoyle, 67, chairman of the Parliamentary Labour Party, said he would not recontest Warrington North, where he has a majority of 12,622. Norman Hogg, 59, a former deputy chief whip, said he would not fight Cumbernauld and Kilsyth where he has a 9,215 majority.

Bryan Davies, Labour's higher education spokesman, and Mike Watson — whose constituencies are disappearing — are frontrunners for the two seats.

Labour signs football clubs

Labour will unveil plans today to set up homework centres at Premiership football clubs to help to raise children's literacy standards. Pupils who are having trouble in class will be encouraged to do their homework at the clubs after school before playing a game of football. David Blunkett, the Shadow Education Secretary, will say. Chelsea, Sheffield Wednesday, Newcastle United and Arsenal have joined the scheme and will help to set up pilot study support centres.

Muslims urged to take part

A leading Muslim body has condemned Islamic extremists who have called on the Muslim community to take no part in the election. The Muslim College, headed by Dr Zaki Badawi, a well-known moderate, has advised that all Muslims should take part. "Taking part is a religious as well as a civic duty," the college says in a document published today. "The consequences will affect all of us and to remain aloof can be regarded as a lack of concern for the community."

PM's wife fears ignominious exit

BY JAMES LANDALE, POLITICAL REPORTER

NORMA MAJOR called yesterday for an end to the "ignominious" tradition under which an ousted Prime Minister is forced to leave Downing Street within hours of his defeat at the polls.

While she insisted that John Major was going to win the election, the Prime Minister's wife said any departing leader should be able to leave with dignity. Unlike other world leaders, British Prime Ministers are hustled out of their offices on the day they lose the election. If Labour wins in the early hours of May 2, Mr Major would be likely to deliver his resignation to the Queen in the morning and be out of Downing Street by early afternoon. The speed of departure has led to embarrassing moments for men who until hours before were running the country. Sir Edward Heath was left homeless in 1974 and forced to live in an aide's flat for several months. Harold Wilson was reduced to sneaking his possessions out the back of Downing Street in 1970.

In the United States, ousted Presidents have several months between their defeat and their successor's installation. In Canada and New Zealand, Prime Ministers have about a week to pack their bags.

In a newspaper interview Mrs Major said she believed the Tories would win. But she expressed concern at the way Prime Ministers' were removed. "One is hustled out rather ignominiously, which I think is shameful," she said. "I don't think that any incoming Prime Minister actually would expect the outgoing Prime Minister to disappear by lunchtime the next day."

She added: "I think someone should take a grip of the situation. I mean no outgoing Prime Minister is going to want to cling on. You want to make a fairly smart move. But one should be able to do it with dignity."

An explanation emerged yesterday for Mrs Major's downbeat appearance during the early days of the election campaign. She has been spending time looking after her mother, who is suffering from cancer. In her interview she said: "She has cancer but we think she is on the mend."

Tories may lose Fleet Street allies



Rothermere: spoke of *Mail*'s independence

BY CAROL MIDGLEY

JOHN MAJOR suffered another setback yesterday when it was reported that Associated Newspapers had tempered its traditionally staunch support for the Tory party.

Lord Rothermere, chairman of the group that publishes the *Daily Mail*, the *Mail on Sunday* and the London *Evening Standard*, was quoted as saying: "I don't think we will actually endorse anybody. I don't believe in newspapers supporting parties. The proper duty is to report what happens. The *Daily Mail* is independent. It has always embraced the policy of the Tories because the policy of the Labour Party was not acceptable," Lord Rothermere told the *Independent on Sunday*, adding that this time, however, "we have two political parties with policies not terribly different, the difference being the question of credibility."

Only the opposition of the *Daily Mail*'s Editor, Paul Dacre, was said to have stopped the paper backing Mr Blair. He is said to have argued that this would anger diehard Tory readers. The *Evening Standard* might support Labour, Lord Rothermere hinted.

Last night, Peter Wright, the deputy editor of the *Daily Mail*, said that his newspaper "will be reporting the campaigns of all the parties with its usual vigour. Only when we have a full picture of what the parties have to offer will we consider offering our readers advice on voting preferences."

Last week Mr Major lost another former ally, *The Sun*, which declared on the front page its conversion to Mr Blair's new Labour.

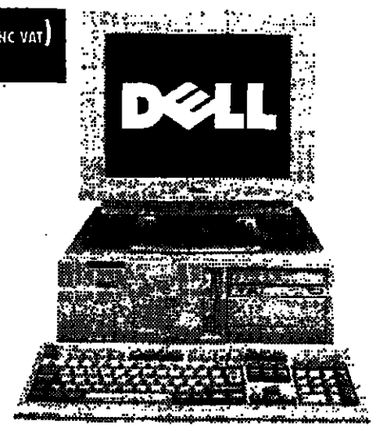
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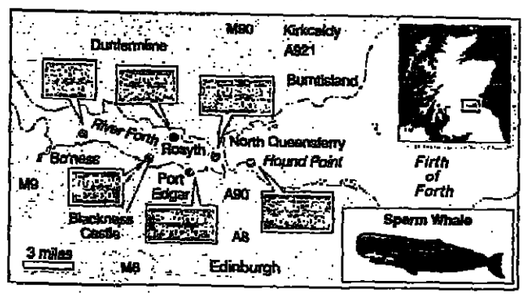
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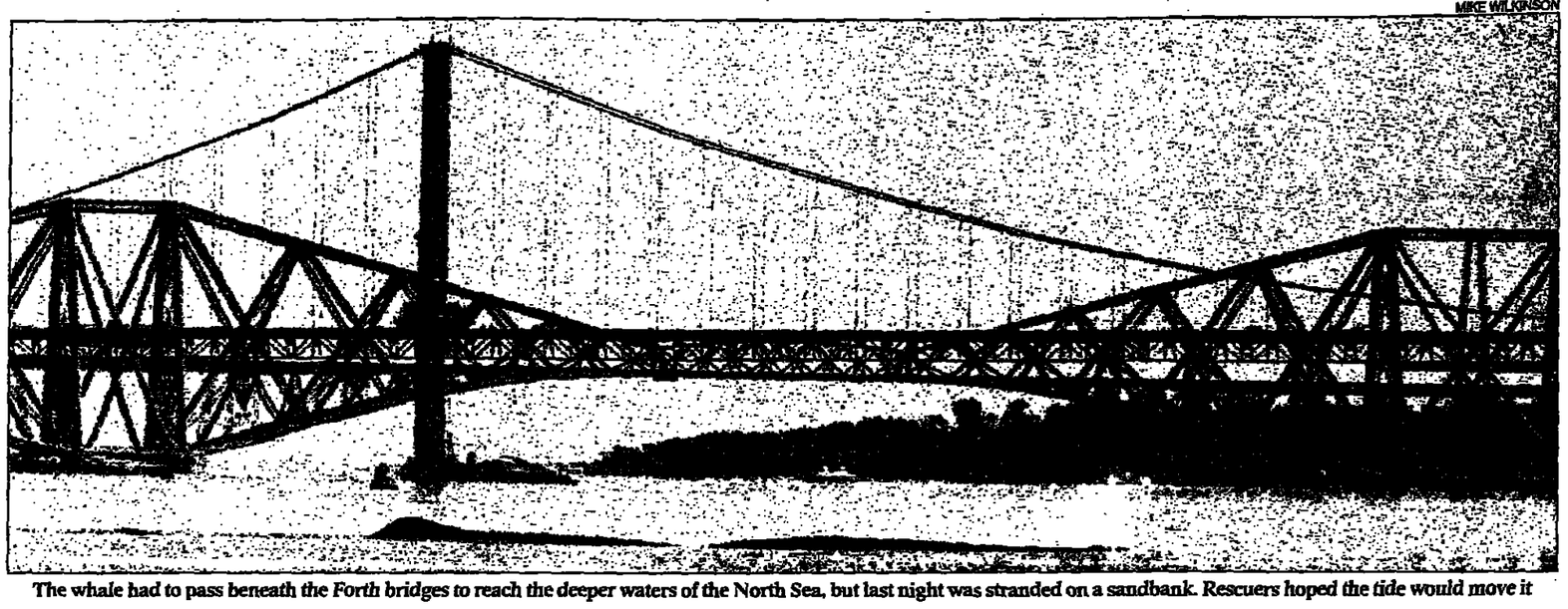
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Fate of stranded whale hinges on high tide





MIKE WILKINSON

The whale had to pass beneath the Forth bridges to reach the deeper waters of the North Sea, but last night was stranded on a sandbank. Rescuers hoped the tide would move it

BY GILLIAN BOWDITCH, SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

THOUSANDS of sightseers armed with binoculars, cameras and telescopes lined both banks of the River Forth yesterday to watch a flotilla of boats attempt to shepherd a 40ft sperm whale to the safety of the deep ocean.

There was a carnival atmosphere in North and South Queensferry as hundreds of sightseers from all over Scotland caught a glimpse of the first sperm whale in the Forth for 20 years.

In the river, which was calm in the bright March sunshine, a mammoth operation involving 11 boats, the Ministry of Defence, Force Navigation, British Petroleum, the Coastguard, the Force Road and Railbridge Operators and the police was underway to prevent the whale beaching on the banks of the Forth.

The rescue attempt was masterminded by Deep Sea World, the marine centre and aquarium based on the banks of the Forth at North Queensferry. Divers and marine biologists at the centre were optimistic that with the help of the strong spring tide they could force the 40-ton whale out to the relative safety of the North Sea. But they will not know for certain until today whether they have been successful.

Yesterday's attempt was the third in three days to persuade the whale, nicknamed Moby by locals, to join a pod of four other sperm whales waiting for it off the coast of Burntisland in Fife. Keith Todd, curator of Deep Sea World and the man coordinating the rescue, said the whale was causing a great deal of concern. "If it beaches, it is in serious trouble. The whale has become confused by the shape of the Firth of Forth, the high level of shipping activity and the traffic on both Forth bridges. The strong spring tides have also caused some problems."

Last night the whale appeared to become stuck on a shell of sandbank beyond the bridges not far from the open sea. Dr Todd said it was a small setback, but he was not overly concerned. "The whale is likely to get off with the floodtide and we will be keeping the MoD boat and the BP tug in the area until it refloats."

The sperm whale, *Physeter catodon*, has evolved to live in deep water so effectivly that it is in danger of stranding whenever it moves inshore. As soon as it is unsupported by the water its massive weight crushes its internal organs giving would-be rescuers little chance of helping it.

The whale in the Forth is believed to have lost its bearings during its annual migration from the Arctic to the Azores. It lives on giant squid, fish and octopus and there is very little for it to eat in the Forth. But conservationists say that it is in much greater danger of stranding than of starving.

By 5.30pm yesterday the flotilla of boats, including three BP tugs which normally cost £20,000 per day to operate, the Maid of the Forth, a commercial ferry, the MoD launch, a coastguard vessel and a Forth road bridge safety vessel, had pushed the whale beyond the Forth bridges.

Shipping in the river, the second busiest waterway in Britain after the English channel, was reduced.

Governors sack disciplinarian girls' school head

BY DAVID CHARTER, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

A HEADMISTRESS who imposed a uniform code on her staff has been sacked by governors after teachers and parents lost confidence in her strict leadership style.

Yvonne Graham, described as a disciplinarian by parents, took charge of the all-girl Clifton High School, in Bristol, four terms ago. She caused a stir after she arrived at the successful independent school by insisting that all male staff wore white shirts and ties and by banning the female teachers from wearing trousers.

Mrs Graham also drew criticism from parents at the £8,500-a-year school for clamping down firmly on a traditional end-of-term prank by sixth formers last summer. Greg Cairns, president of the school council, the governing body, said yesterday: "There was a loss of confidence among a large group of parents and staff. All sorts of things can give rise to that.

"It was not a personality clash *per se*, and it wasn't a matter of conduct or capability. There is no one single issue which gave rise to the loss of confidence. This decision was reached after some time and with enormous regret. Mrs Graham is a very capable lady, certainly in terms of skills as a headmistress. There was nothing wrong with that."

He would not comment further on the reasons for her dismissal. In her short time at the school, A-level grades rose from an average 21.6 points per pupil in 1995 to 23.7 last summer. A consistent 99 per cent of girls achieved five or more top-grade GCSEs.

Mrs Graham, who married an Army officer and has two grown-up sons, was formerly head of Lavant House School in Chichester, and arrived in January last year at Clifton, where old girls include Jo Durie, the tennis player, and Sara Keays, former secretary of Lord Parkinson, who was then a Conservative Cabinet Minister.

Parents were said to be concerned about Mrs Graham's strict regime and, in particular, a "heavy-handed" response to a sixth-form stunt last May. Dozens of girls dressed up as nuns for a fancy-dress prank, but found themselves suspended and sent home for the day by Mrs Graham.

Mrs Graham was unavailable for comment yesterday.

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THE TIMES GUIDE TO ELECTION ISSUES

10. *Employment*

Argument centres on Labour's approach to the job

EVEN with unemployment falling and the number of jobs growing, poll evidence suggests that jobs and the number of people out of work will be a key factor in the election. Though the main parties are close on a range of economic issues, the labour market is an area of sharp political division.

Conservatives support continuing and indeed greater deregulation of the labour market. A jobs market hindered by as few regulations as possible is one in which unemployment will fall, and employment will grow, they argue. Labour and the Liberal Democrats, which have only slight policy differences, believe in greater intervention in the labour market through some degree of regulation and through government measures to improve skills and to create jobs for the young and the long-term unemployed. Jobs, in their view, will come through the better economic growth produced by a more skilled workforce and regulation will provide a floor of minimum employment standards to protect people at work.

In the election, the argument over jobs will focus on a handful of Labour policies, rather than the Conservatives' jobs record since 1979. Labour is proposing to introduce a statutory national minimum wage, to end the opt-out from the social chapter of the European Union's Maastricht treaty, and to pass legislation requiring employers to recognise trade unions for collective bargaining if a majority of their workforce wants it. Tony Blair insists, however, that there will be no return to compulsory union membership under the closed shop system of the 1960s and 1970s.

In addition, Labour is proposing a one-off windfall tax on the profits of privatised utilities to fund a new programme which will guarantee a job, community service or training place to 250,000 young people on the dole. The windfall levy will also pay for a £75-per-week subsidy to employers who offer jobs to the long-term unemployed. Labour's quid pro quo for this job creation will be tougher measures to withdraw benefits from people who refuse offers of training or jobs.

Labour claims that such combinations of carrots and sticks have been effective in putting people back to work in Australia and several American states. The Tories do not reject the principle of in-work benefits and employment subsidies — they have launched several pilot programmes along the same lines — but they argue that Labour's blanket approach will prove costly, could encourage employers to sack workers to take advantage of the subsidies, and will waste money by paying for jobs that would have been created even without the state handouts.

The Conservatives see inward investment by foreign companies as a clear indicator of the success of their deregulation strategy, though inward investors rarely cite employment conditions as the prime reason for their location decisions. Since 1979, inward-investor companies have provided or guaranteed 790,000 jobs.

Labour counters that the Conservatives' policy of job market deregulation has led directly to widespread feelings of work insecurity, undermining the social benefits of the reduction in unemployment since 1992. Economists are debating, however, how extensive such job insecurity actually is.

Europe is central to all these arguments. In parallel with the project in the 1980s to create a single market, the European Commission sought to protect employees with new regulatory initiatives. The Maastricht treaty's social chapter, an agreement of ways to process new job regulations is the latest of these. So far the social chapter directives have covered fairly innocuous issues such as parental leave, but the Tories claim that other, more contentious, policies could be added to the social chapter if the UK signed up. Ministers claim that abandoning the UK's opt-out from the social chapter will lead to the loss of at least half a million jobs, and will damage precisely the competitive advantage that has seen inward-investor companies coming to the UK, rather than other EU states. The Conservatives argue that Europe's persistently high unemployment and poor job creation performance are direct results of its over-regulated labour market, and contrast sharply with the falling unemployment and accelerating employment growth of the United States, whose labour market is seen as highly deregulated and flexible.

Labour's plans for a minimum wage have nothing to do with the social chapter, though they are often thought to be connected. The key issue, on which Labour has been studiously silent, is the level at which the minimum wage would be set. If the wage were set at a very low level, such as £2.50 an hour, it would have little impact, but would leave Labour's trade union supporters dissatisfied. If it were set at £3.50 or higher, some economists believe that hundreds of thousands of unskilled jobs could be destroyed. Others point out, however, that the US has a national minimum wage, which has not prevented it from generating millions of jobs for unskilled workers.

The Tories see old Labour, and especially the unions, lurking in the minimum wage and union recognition proposals. But Labour insists that the main purpose of the minimum wage is to prevent employers from exploiting the welfare system by underpaying their workers and forcing them to claim government benefits.

As for the unions, they are unlikely to play an important part in the electoral debate about employment. In 1979, they had a central role in the election. Now they are rarely mentioned, even by the Tories: a demonstration of the way the political argument has shifted from industrial relations to the creation of jobs.

Pay gap has grown with demand for new skills

THE RECORD

IN 1979, total employment in Britain stood at 25.5 million. In February 1997, it was 26.1 million — a net job growth over the Conservative years of 655,000. In 1979, unemployment had risen to 1.2 million. Now it stands at 1.8 million, 659,500 higher, even after falling fairly constantly for the past four years.

On such stark, simple facts, one judgment of Britain's jobs record under the Conservatives can be reached — that the UK's job performance has been indifferent at best.

However, recalling the employment issues on which the 1979 election was largely fought — Britain's industrial relations performance and the disruptive role of the trade unions — the record over the past 18 years has been an unqualified success.

With 13.3 million employees in trade unions in 1979, Britain lost 29.5 million working days through strikes. Now, with union membership down to 60 per cent of its 1979 level and still falling despite the recent recovery of employment itself, strikes are all but unknown in the private sector, and the number of days lost through strikes last year was just over a million, only 4 per cent of its 1979 total. Not for nothing is the reform of the unions usually cited as the Conservative Government's most significant achievement.

But to choose industrial peace, or the number of jobs, as the sole measure of the Conservative employment record is to belie the shifting complexities that characterise the British labour market. Between the start and the possible endpoint of the Tory period there have been a number of other important changes which make Britain's labour market today significantly different from the way it was when Margaret Thatcher took office.

Labour markets do not change in isolation, and the transformations of the British labour market have taken place against the background of two fundamental and linked trends which have affected economies across the world — the shifting pattern of world trade and the application of new technologies.

Both moves have put strong pressure on jobs in advanced industrial countries such as Britain. As newly emerging economies have entered the world market, multinational firms have been forced to keep their costs highly competitive by seeking lower unit-labour costs and wage rates, an objective which has often been easier to achieve in highly deregulated labour markets.

At the same time, continuing technological advances have meant that many jobs which used to be heavily labour-intensive now either no longer exist, or can be done with a fraction of the workforce. The two trends have often been intertwined. Bookings made in the UK for some airline tickets, for example, used to be manually processed across the counter. Now they are handled by cheaper ticket operators based in South East Asia, linked to Britain by telephones, modems and computers. Changes in trade and technology have gone hand in hand, and clerical jobs have been lost in Britain as a result.

The other side of this coin, however, has been rapid growth in business services and finance, both industries in which Britain has been able to exploit its comparative advantages with the help of technology and the easing of trade barriers and capital controls. Financial services in all their forms today employ the same proportion of Britain's workforce as manufacturing.

This is the kind of evidence used by ministers to support their claim that a more flexible labour market has been the most critical component in Britain's increased prosperity and successful economic performance. Labour under Tony Blair has officially acknowledged these claims, at least in part, but has also suggested that misguided economic policies — including excessive deregulation and inadequate emphasis on training — have exposed workers to exploitation, have lost jobs that could have been preserved, and have damaged society by destroying job security and undermining long-term investment and planning.

While the direction of the labour market reforms has been clear in the past 18 years, the precise effects of the changes have been hard to gauge, partly because of gaps between the Government's main ways of measuring jobs. While total net employment grew by 2.5 per cent in the 18 years from 1979 to 1996 on the basis of the employer-based surveys used by the Treasury, there are other statistics which suggest a somewhat more dynamic performance. For example, using the Government's Labour Force Survey, which is based on interviewing households, employment since 1979 has risen by 1.28 million, or 5.2 per cent.

Looking at this more generous estimate in greater detail helps to explain some of the pessimism which persists about jobs. Although total employment in Britain has risen, the number of jobs held by men has gone down by 4.6 per cent during the Tory years. An increase of almost two million in jobs held by women has more than accounted for the whole growth of employment. This shift between the sexes has pushed the proportion of all jobs held by women up from 39 per cent in 1979 to 45 per cent now.

There have also been marked shifts in the age-structure of the workforce, with many older workers forced or encouraged to take early retirement, to be replaced by younger workers on lower wages, whose pensions have also been cheaper to fund.

The types of employment have also seen significant changes. In 1979, the number of people in full-time jobs stood at 18.7 million. Now it is down to 16.7 million, a drop of more than 10 per cent. Full-time jobs used to comprise 77 per cent of the total. Now they are less than two thirds. Part-time working, seen as a hallmark of the UK's more flexible labour market, is up from 3.9 million to 5.7 million — a 45 per cent rise, with part-time work now accounting for more than a fifth of Britain's jobs total.

Most of this part-time activity has reflected the preferences of women with family responsibilities, but a large proportion of the part-time working has been involuntary — about 15 per cent of part-time employees say they would prefer to have full-time jobs. And the greater entrepreneurship of the Thatcherite 1980s has also been reflected in the large rise of self-employment, up by 86 per cent from 1.8 million in 1979 to 3.3 million now. As a share of all jobs, self-employment has risen from 7 per cent to 13 per cent.

There have been clear switches between sectors: a 42 per cent fall in employment in primary industries such as mining, and a fall of more than 30 per cent in manufacturing employment, which at 7.2 million in 1979 comprised 30 per cent of the total. At 4.9 million now, it is down to 19 per cent.

At the same time, the number of people working in business and financial services has more than doubled, to 3.6 million. And despite the Government's drive to reduce public sector numbers, the total number of people working in the public and social services is up by a fifth, to 1.3 million.

Regions such as East Anglia and the South West have seen sharp rises overall in jobs, by more than 20 per cent, though the South East still holds sway in the job market, taking a total share of 34 per cent of the jobs in 1979 and almost unchanged now at 33 per cent.

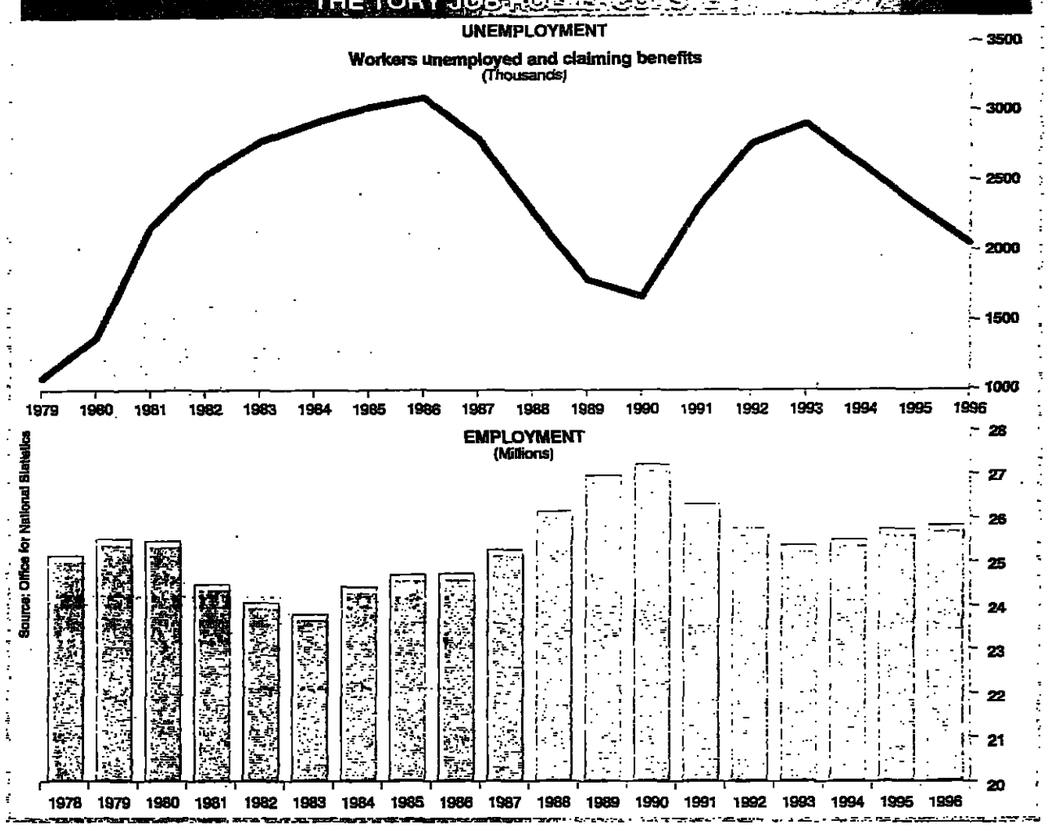
Finally, in occupational terms, the decline of manual employment continues, down by more than 3.5 million since 1979, or 31 per cent. Jobs in service areas such as sales are up in total by 19 per cent, while professional and managerial jobs now form the largest part of total employment, at 36 per cent or 9.3 million in all.

These drastic changes in the demand for different skills and occupations have been the main cause of the widening in earnings inequality throughout the Tory period, although some Labour politicians would also blame the less progressive tax structure and the general climate of "Tory greed".

The precise extent to which the rich have become relatively richer and the poor have got poorer is a matter of intense dispute among economists. This is not a question which can be settled objectively by any one set of figures, since the answer depends critically on whether the comparisons are made between individuals or households, and on whether welfare benefits, in cash and in kind, are taken into account. What almost nobody denies is that the gap between rich and poor has widened. The question to be answered is whether this has been caused by changes in the nature of technology, trade and employment, and whether it can be narrowed by putting a different party in power.

Next week: law and order

THE TORY JOB-ROLLERCOASTER



THE POLITICIANS

GILLIAN SHEPHARD



Age: 57.

Education: North Walsham High School. Modern languages at St Hilda's, Oxford.

Family: two stepsons.

Experience: former schools inspector, county councillor. Became MP for Norfolk South West in 1987 and rose through Treasury, becoming Employment Secretary, moving to Agriculture, Education then merged Education and Employment.

Politics: dry economically. Major loyalist and friend, cited as possible centrist contender for leadership.

Performance: personally likeable, privately witty. Solid speaker, criticised by the Right as insufficiently radical.

DAVID BLUNKETT



Age: 49

Education: Royal Normal College for the Blind, Shrewbury, night school and day release, then politics at Sheffield University.

Family: three children at local comprehensive.

Experience: former leader of Sheffield City Council. Became MP for Sheffield Brightside in 1987. Health and Education before taking both Education and Employment. Likely to retain his post if Labour wins.

Politics: standard-bearer of the old "soft Left" in Labour, now moved to the Centre. Has huge constituency support and is trusted by Tony Blair.

Performance: competent and determined.

WHAT THEY SAID

Unemployment must be the main preoccupation of economic policymakers in the 1990s.
Kenneth Clarke, Chancellor

The extent of job insecurity is going to be a central feature of the general election.
Tony Blair

My father did not wait around . . . he got on his bike and went out looking for work.
Norman Tebbit, Employment Secretary 1981-83

Rising unemployment and the recession have been the price that we've had to pay to get inflation down. That is a price well worth paying.
Norman Lamont, Chancellor 1990-93

We should remember one simple fact — not for a single month since Thatcher first came to office has unemployment been lower than it was when Labour was voted out.
Bill Morris, general secretary TGWU

What I am saying is that job insecurity is a state of mind. The reality is, by creating a flexible labour market, we have actually been creating more jobs.
Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade

It's a recession when your neighbour loses his job. It's a depression when you lose your own.
Harry S. Truman, US President, 1945-52

THE FACTS

☐ Britain's total workforce is now 28 million — 22.2 million employees, 3.4 million self-employed, 220,000 in Armed Forces, 200,000 on training schemes, and 1.8 million unemployed.

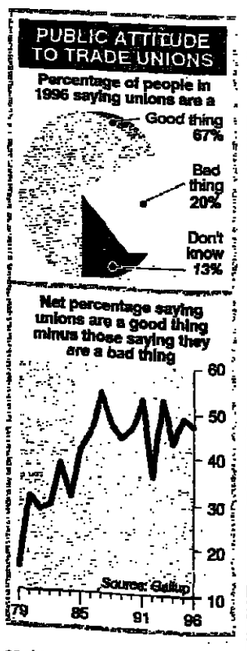
☐ In Britain, 74 per cent of the working-age population is in work, compared with 77 per cent in Japan and 78 per cent in the the USA, and with 68 per cent in the EU.

☐ Seventy-five per cent of the British workforce is in full-time work, with a quarter working part-time. For women, 55 per cent are in full-time and 45 per cent in part-time work.

☐ Unemployment in Britain now stands at 6.5 per cent, compared with 5.3 per cent in the USA, 3.2 per cent in Japan, 9.3 per cent in Germany and 12.5 per cent in France, and with 10.9 per cent for the EU as a whole.

☐ Average earnings in Britain are £351.70 a week — £18,300 a year. For men the weekly figure is £391.60, and for women £283.

☐ Best independent forecasts suggest that employment in the UK will grow by about 1.2 million by 2001, or about 5 per cent — with more than two thirds of that growth in jobs held by women.



CONSERVATIVES



Employment: continuing drive for greater flexibility will push up employment by making employing more people more attractive.

Unemployment: will continue to fall with more flexibility, and by attacks on dole fraud through Jobseeker's Allowance and moves such as Project Work. New emphasis on long-term unemployed, but no new schemes.

Training: modern apprenticeship scheme, support for Training and Enterprise Councils.

Social chapter: keep opt-out, oppose EU job regulation.

Minimum wage: oppose minimum wages, promote decentralisation of pay bargaining, individual pay setting and performance pay.

Unions: outlaw strikes with "disproportionate" effects.

Pay: promote decentralisation of pay bargaining, individual pay setting and performance pay. Public sector pay bill freeze.

Boardrooms: continued self-regulation of executive pay and corporate governance.

LABOUR



Employment: greater economic growth will lead to more jobs.

Unemployment: windfall tax on privatised utilities will fund youth employment and training programme. Welfare to work programme that will move people from the dole. £75 weekly subsidies to employers to take on long-term unemployed.

Training: individual learning accounts, matching funding from government.

Social chapter: end opt-out to provide minimum job standards in line with other European employees.

Minimum wage: legislation to provide a minimum wage with level recommended by low pay commission.

Unions: no roll-back of 1980s law, but statutory union recognition for collective bargaining where majority want it.

Pay: pay bill freeze for top civil servants in first year. Tight cash limits on public sector pay.

Boardrooms: new powers for utility regulators to counter excessive top pay rises.

LIBERAL DEMOCRATS



Employment: boost jobs by investing in infrastructure, and introduce regional development agencies.

Unemployment: investment in skills, welfare-to-work programme including benefits paid as a voucher to employers. Benefit transfer scheme for long-term unemployed.

Training: work experience part of education from age 14. All adults entitled to retraining. Refundable training levy of 2 per cent of an employer's payroll.

Social chapter: sign the social chapter.

Minimum wage: regionally varied minimum wage.

Unions: legal framework of employment rights, including union membership.

Pay: review equal pay legislation.

Boardrooms: higher top rates of income tax. Direct shareholder elections of companies' executive remuneration committees.

Written quotations for this edition by Whitaker & Bradford at Langley Colliery, Cowdenbeath

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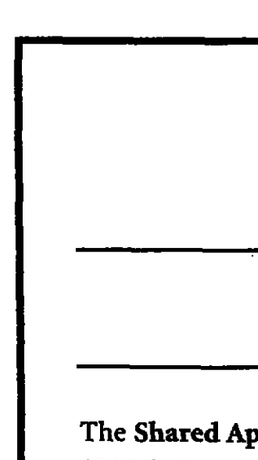
Synagogue accused of sex bias over Gryn post

BY RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

ONE of the country's leading synagogues is divided over whether it should appoint a woman as senior rabbi. Accusations of prejudice have been made against officials of the West London Synagogue, the renowned centre of Reform Judaism formerly led by the late Hugo Gryn.

Members of the congregation want the synagogue's popular associate minister, Rabbi Jacqueline Tabick, to succeed Dr Gryn, who died last year. The synagogue council has decided to look elsewhere. Insiders at the Reform Synagogues of Great Britain (RSGB) and the synagogue itself believe that Mrs Tabick is opposed because she is a woman. A petition in support of Rabbi Tabick, who has served the synagogue for many years, has attracted 500 signatures.

Dr Richard Stone, a vice-president of the RSGB and a worshipping member of the synagogue, said: "I feel that she has not been treated well. A large number of people feel the same thing. I have no doubt that there is prejudice against having a woman in such a senior position. It is very unfortunate, because for the ordinary person the most obvious difference between Reform and Orthodox Jewry is that we have women rabbis, and men and women can sit together in the synagogue."



Rabbi Tabick: is said to face prejudice

Another insider, who asked not be named, said: "She is a charming and capable person. But they won't give her the job because she is not a man. It is as simple as that."

The *Jewish Chronicle* reports claims that support for Rabbi Tabick is less widespread than had been thought, and that some members had been "coerced" to sign the petition.

With more than 2,000 families, the West London Synagogue, founded more than 150 years ago, has the largest membership of any synagogue in the country. It became known far beyond the Jewish community under the leadership of Rabbi Gryn, a Holocaust survivor who became a nationally known broadcaster and who was assiduous in helping to improve inter-faith relations. The post is viewed as one of Britain's most important rabbinical appointments.

The synagogue's rabbinical appointment council has considered various proposals, including appointing three rabbis to replace Dr Gryn, with Rabbi Tabick as "pastoral" rabbi. Rabbi Tabick rejected these plans but is understood still to be considering modified proposals.

In a letter to members of the congregation, seen by *The Times*, the synagogue's president, David Leuw, and its chairman, Jeff Samson, referred to "action on the part of a few of our members — which can only be harmful — to question the decision of our elected council".

Rabbi Tabick was unavailable for comment last night.



Brave hearts: Heather Ripley with her daughter Josie, 9, at the site of her latest environmental protest in Scotland

Actress moves from screen to green

BY A STAFF REPORTER

A CHILD star of the film *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang* has taken on the role of an environmental protester. Heather Ripley, who in the film helps her screen father, Dick Van Dyke, to overthrow a monarch who hates children, now travels the country trying to defend nature.

At the weekend she pitched her tent at Pressmennan Wood, East Lothian, where a company intends to fell 300 oak trees. The protesters are camped around a flag of the Scottish lion on Clints Dod hill, near the village of Stenton. Ms Ripley, 37, who also worked as a model in the United States, is accompanied by her daughter Josie, 9, and son Cosmo, 11.

Her previous performances for the "eco-warriors" have stretched from the Outer Hebrides to the Newbury bypass route. She joined the tunnel protester Swampy on a demonstration against nuclear submarines at Faslane naval base.



On film: as Jemima, centre, in *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*

She was discovered by Hollywood producers while working in repertory in Dundee and spent 14 months making *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*, which came out in 1968.

Her environmental campaigning was inspired by a film of Australian protesters who chained themselves to trees. The feature film *Braveheart* roused her passions to protect the countryside in her home country.

She said: "I was amazed at the dedication of people chained to trees and in the path of bulldozers. Their tactics seemed spectacular. It seemed far removed from nice quiet life and something I was unlikely ever to become involved in.

"But I heard of the plans to put a road through an ancient burial chamber in Lewis and I had to get involved. Although we failed to stop the building of the road, that first step of action changed my life."

The Forestry Commission said the oaks were to be felled under a new management plan to preserve the long-term future of Pressmennan Wood, which had no young trees to replace the mature ones when they died.

Bishop to reveal new plans for bombed church

BY LIN JENKINS

A NEW proposal for the bomb-damaged medieval church of St Ethelberga, Bishopsgate, in the City of London, could end four years of wrangling in the Church.

Plans for a modern glass-fronted design that left exposed the parts of the church damaged by an IRA bomb were rejected by City planners last year. The Rt Rev Richard Chartres, Bishop of London, will announce the latest proposal tomorrow.

It is understood that the revised plans envisage St Ethelburga being reopened as a centre for peace, reconciliation and mediation. It is unclear what plans the bishop has for the fabric of the building, about a third of which was destroyed.

Traditionalists had pressed for the Grade One listed building to be restored, with its medieval street frontage, roof and 18th-century bell turret. The decision to look again at the future of the building came after planners rejected the design by the architects Blee Ettwein Bridges to redevelop the site after some Church leaders argued that there were too many churches in the City.

Planners deemed the £3 million scheme — which would have encased the ruins in glass and steel and incorporated a memorial garden, gallery and office building — as "inappropriate".

Objections were raised by the Ancient Monuments Society, the Royal Fine Art Commission, the Conservation Area Advisory Committee, the London Society, the Retail Traders Association, the City Heritage Society and the Friends of St Ethelburga.

The friends had lobbied for a plan by the architects Rothermel Thomas. It proposed rebuilding the church, including the popular walled garden, to provide "a valuable ecclesiastical and meeting space" in the City.

Three exam boards to merge

Three examination boards are to combine after a government demand for mergers to protect A-level and GCSE standards. Further cuts in the range of syllabuses available to schools are expected to follow the merger of the Associated Examining Board, Northern Examinations and Assessments Board and City & Guilds. Boards have already been asked to reduce to two each the number of syllabuses per subject by next year.

Buzzards return

Buzzards have returned to the Yorkshire Dales after an absence of 150 years. Bird watchers have recorded at least 15 pairs, raising hopes that the rare species will colonise the east of the country once more.

Hand severed

Surgeons reattached a man's hand after it was severed by an attacker with a samurai sword. It was too early to say if the victim, 25, from Wigan, would lose that hand. A man aged 22 was charged with grievous bodily harm.

Places pledge

Independent schools were reassured that new assisted places will be honoured if Labour wins the general election, even though the Department for Education has stopped confirming them during the election period.

Burger relish

A free burger for pupils who rarely play truant has been negotiated with McDonald's by Rhodri Lewis, a teacher at Cwm Rhymni school, Bargoed, Caerphilly. Other incentives are geometry sets, book tokens and Easter eggs.

Tenor's farewell

Luciano Pavarotti is to make a farewell gesture to the Royal Opera House's present building with a recital accompanied by piano on May 11. Tickets are likely to cost up to £125. The building is to close for a two-year redevelopment.

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hospital treatment (AP)

Cheaper laser eye surgery may put standards at risk

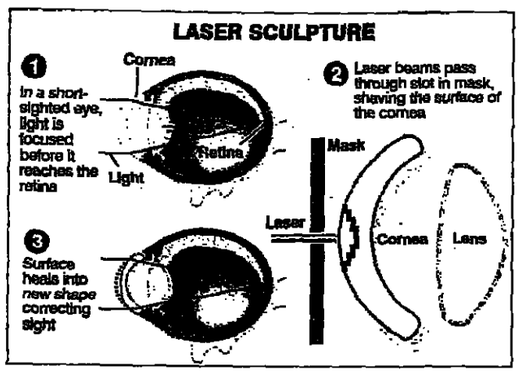
BY JEREMY LAURANCE
HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

CUT-PRICE laser treatment to correct short sight may lead to a fall in standards, optometrists have warned. The price of the treatment has dropped from about £1,500 per eye to less than £300 in two years, and up to 15,000 patients a year now have the surgery.

The British College of Optometrists says that the technique, which involves shaving a tiny layer from the surface of the cornea to correct its focus, is still experimental, and this should be explained by the 25 laser clinics to their patients.

Keith Edwards, professional adviser to the college, said: "The real concern is over the quality of the procedure and how it is conducted. In general the results are pretty good, pretty predictable and pretty stable. But that is the average and there are always extreme responses."

Problems included scarring and distortion of vision, but they were rare, he said. Most patients would experience an improvement in vision, but it might not be sufficient to allow them to dispense with spectacles, and the treatment could not halt the normal decline in vision with age.



Mr Edwards said: "The problem is that, once it is done, it cannot be undone. Most other methods of correcting sight are reversible. Even with contact lenses you can always take them out."

Clearsight, a London clinic, was charging £1,400 per eye in 1994, including aftercare, but dropped its price to £995 more than a year ago and has recently cut it again to £295, including one follow-up visit. The initial assessment and subsequent follow-ups are charged at £25 each. Vivian Highman, consultant ophthalmologist at the clinic, said: "Like any commodity, laser treatment was more expensive when it first came out. Now we know more accurately what what can be done." Mr Highman said all care was provided by consultants and, although the clinic's laser was an older model, it had been upgraded four times. "It is virtually the same as the modern ones," he said.

Russell Ambrose, owner of the Optimax chain of five laser clinics which treats more than 200 patients a week and charges £395 per eye, including aftercare, said economies of scale made the lower price possible. "It's a business. We are a specialist provider."

He said consultants provided the initial assessment and the treatment but the follow-up checks were by opticians. "If there are any complications the doctor will see the patient again. The opticians are under the control and supervision of the doctor and legal responsibility for the patients remains with the doctor."

Charles Magee, Professor of Ophthalmology at Dundee University and chairman of the British Excimer Laser Society, said: "If you have low prices you may have to rush patients through to meet financial goals." He said the high price of lasers, at £400,000 each, meant charges had to be high in the early years but could be reduced once the machine had been paid for. The older machines were adequate for simple, low-level shortsight but might not be for complex problems.

Science Briefing, page 15



Etienne Bacrot moves closer to becoming the youngest grandmaster at the tournament in Enghien-les-Bains

Chess boy becomes grandmaster at 14

A FRENCH boy aged 14 could soon be a millionaire after becoming the world's youngest chess grandmaster at the weekend (Raymond Keene writes). Etienne Bacrot, who achieved his result in the international tournament at Enghien-les-Bains in France, is likely to be courted by computer manufacturers seeking his endorsement of their products. He is, however, one of the few experts who does not rely on computer analysis to support his efforts. And, unlike many prodigies, he is not accompanied by pushy parents. In the final round he needed only a draw to take the title. He won with black in 41 moves, exceeding his requirements by half a point. His age of fourteen years and two months beat the previous record, held by the Hungarian Peter Leko, who became a grandmaster at fourteen years, four months and 22 days. Previous holders include Bobby Fischer.

Keene on Chess, page 38

Clear alternative to glasses is not an easy choice



MEDICAL BRIEFING

Short sight is to a large extent inherited. Its incidence varies from one race to another: in the Far East more than 90 per cent of students in some universities need to wear spectacles because of the condition.

It is uncertain what link there is between short sight and a high IQ. The Victorians thought that eyes could become strained by years spent poring over books, but a few decades ago the popular medical view was that short-sighted people gravitated towards the library because they found it hard to excel at games. Recently there has been support for a theory that a high IQ and short sight may, in some cases, be part of a genetic package.

Short sight may start in early childhood and is usually obvious by puberty. The eyesight may continue to deteriorate and usually becomes stabilised in the early 20s. Wearing glasses may affect self-esteem and be an inconvenience at work and at play. Contact lenses may be uncomfortable and may cause serious infection.

Vision is impaired by too great a distance between the front of the cornea and the retina, the membrane at the back of the eye which converts the images that it receives into nerve impulses for transmission to the brain. The cornea and lens in a short-sighted person focus the viewed image to a point well in front of the retina, so it is out of focus.

Ophthalmologists in Russia were the first to popularise surgery to correct short sight. They altered the shape of the eyeball, making it rounder and therefore less long, by cutting radial incisions. This technique, known as radial keratotomy, was greeted with some suspicion in the West although a Russian hospital ship did brisk trade when it toured the Mediterranean coast offering the operation.

Some British surgeons use the technique and claim excellent results without serious complications, but its popularity has been reduced by concern about the long-term effects and the danger of rupture of the eyeball.

In laser surgery, the eye's focusing mechanism is altered by shaving the cornea with a laser beam. The technique has proved reliable and is popular with patients.

The success of laser therapy is dependent on choosing a surgeon who is very selective when deciding which patients should be offered the operation. The primary objective must be to improve the sight of a person who feels that their life is being spoilt by having to wear spectacles.

When trouble has arisen, usually it has been because clinical judgment has been warped by the need to earn guineas, so that unsuitable cases are selected for treatment and others are inadequately supervised.

DR THOMAS STUTTAFORD

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Security crackdown in key towns as Hamas guerrillas threaten further wave of attacks

Israel pulls back from complete break in talks

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

AN EMERGENCY session of Israel's security Cabinet decided last night against suspension of all talks with the Palestinians and instead demanded that the Palestinian Authority fulfil its obligations to "fight terrorism as an essential step for continuing the political process".

The decision was taken in the face of opposition by some hawkish ministers, who had demanded a complete cessation of contacts in response to the claim that Yassir Arafat gave the "green light" for the start of a new campaign of suicide attacks.

Last Friday's explosion in a Tel Aviv café, in which three people were killed and 40 hurt, was the first of its kind since Binyamin Netanyahu came to power promising Israelis "peace with security".

Mr Netanyahu's communications director, David Bar-Illan, said that for now talks would continue only "on issues directly related to preventing terrorism ... until there is satisfaction on the security level".

Hamas, the Islamic Resistance Movement, yesterday threatened more suicide attacks such as the one in Tel Aviv, and denied that Mr Arafat would be able to crack down on its activities as it claimed to have an organisational structure in place and ready to strike against Jewish targets based outside the areas under his control.

Mr Netanyahu said after the meeting in Tel Aviv, a city surrounded by new Israeli roadblocks designed to try to thwart the Islamic bombers: "I am not suspending talks because our people are meeting their people, but the first item on the agenda is the fulfilment of the Palestinian obligation to fight terrorism. They have to start complying with that, or else we cannot move."

> "We do not need much effort to prove the truthfulness of our threat to teach Netanyahu a lesson"

The Palestinians shrugged off the Israeli threats, claiming that negotiations were already in deadlock. They blamed Israel's decision last Tuesday to defy world opinion and send the bulldozers to begin building at Har Homa, a new settlement for 32,000 Jews on land annexed by Israel after its conquest from Jordan in the 1967 war.

The Hamas statement, treated as authentic and signed "Iz el-Deen, al-Qassam Brigades, Hamas Movement Military Branch, Jerusalem-Occupied Palestine", went on in response to Mr Netanyahu's public pledge to continue with Har Homa despite Friday's bomb: "We do not need much effort to prove our truthfulness and the seriousness of our threats ... to teach the arrogant Netanyahu a lesson he will not forget for days and years."

Friday's suicide bomber came from a West Bank village still under Israeli military rule and where a strict curfew has been imposed. His family is attempting legal moves to prevent their house being destroyed by Israeli troops.

On the ground in Israel and the territories occupied since 1967, the tinderbox atmosphere caused more violence and prompted the Israeli security forces to throw up an unprecedented ring of roadblocks around Tel Aviv and other cities in an attempt to thwart the Hamas bombers.

In Hebron, stone-throwing Palestinian mobs attacked soldiers guarding the 450 Jewish settlers for the third day in succession, hurling petrol bombs and shouting a new inflammatory slogan: "We do not want peace, we want Hamas."

By last night the Palestinian authorities said that nearly 200 Palestinians had been injured since last Friday, 30 of them by live ammunition fired by troops.

As the settlers celebrated the Jewish festival of Purim in a bizarre carnival atmosphere enhanced by wigs and fancy dress, Palestinians living in the area still under Israeli control were under curfew and Palestinian police formed a human chain in an attempt to keep angry protesters from trying to storm the Jewish properties from the 80 per cent of the city now back in Arab control.

The spiral of bloodshed provoked by Har Homa has, according to travel agents, dealt a severe blow to Easter tourism. At least one tourist bus has been stoned in Bethlehem.

Yesterday morning two Palestinians were shot and wounded by Israeli border guards at a roadblock between Bethlehem and Jerusalem after a dispute over identity cards.

DAVID SILVERMAN / REUTER



A Palestinian uses a catapult to hurl stones towards Israeli soldiers in Hebron

Islam told of duty to rescue Jerusalem

FROM ZAHID HUSSAIN IN ISLAMABAD

YASSIR ARAFAT, the Palestinian leader, warned Israel that its hardline position on the construction of Jewish settlements in Arab east Jerusalem and the latest housing development in the area could lead to the total collapse of the Middle East peace process.

At the same time he made an emotional appeal to Muslim countries to rescue Jerusalem from "Zionist clutches", adding: "It is a religious duty of all Muslims to act to save Islam's holy place from the danger of Judaisation."

Mr Arafat, who was addressing an extraordinary summit meeting of the 54 members of the Organisation of Islamic Countries, said that Israel's latest move had taken the peace process down a dead end. The one-day meeting ended late yesterday after adopting a declaration supporting the claims of the Palestinians on Jerusalem. Among the Islamic leaders attending the conference were President Rafsanjani of Iran, President Ederniral of Turkey, and Sultan Ibn Abdul Aziz, the Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia.

Mr Arafat said that time was fast running out for peace. "Israeli plans to establish Jewish settlements in east Jerusalem are a flagrant violation of the peace agreement brokered by Washington."

In a scathing attack on America he said that it was unfortunate that Washington had been supporting Israel's illegal action.

Farouq Kaddumi, a close associate of Mr Arafat, declared that last week's suicide bombing was a normal reaction to the provocative policies of the Israeli Government. "When a cat is driven to the wall, it is natural for her to attack," he said.

Mr Kaddumi, a former spokesman for Mr Arafat on foreign affairs, rejected the charge made by Binyamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister, that the bombing took place on the instructions of Mr Arafat. "That is a blatant lie," he told journalists after the conference.



Ghneimat: had young family

Hamas fighter broke mould of typical suicide bomber

BY CHRISTOPHER WALKER

AS THE three women victims of last week's Tel Aviv bomb were buried yesterday, Israeli security experts were studying details about the suicide attacker who blew himself up after selecting a table in the most crowded part of a café.

Unlike the conventional profile of Islamic terror group bombers — single, unemployed Palestinian men in their late teens or early twenties — Moussa Abu Deiyah Ghneimat was 28, married with four young children and had regularly worked in the kitchens at restaurants in Israel, including two in Rishon Lezion, home of Israel's wine industry.

"The fact that he had four kids of his own and must have known that his bomb was going to blow up a mother and baby sitting in a pram near him makes the attack all the more chilling," said one Jerusalem housewife.

The yellow duffel bag he was carrying contained explosives and nails. The bomb killed Anat Rosen-Winter, 32, a lawyer and mother of the six-month baby, Shani, whose picture, dressed in a Purim clown's costume, appeared on front pages throughout the world. Michal Avrami, 32, a doctor who was four months pregnant with her first child, also died in the blast.

Security sources admitted that the identity of the attacker had made the task of pinpointing potential suicide bombers more difficult. It also opened up the prospect that a number may already be inside Israel waiting to act, despite the closure of the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Ghneimat came from a Muslim family in the occupied village of Zurif, near Hebron. Neighbours described him as "a quiet guy" who regularly slept overnight at his work in Israel.

It emerged yesterday that he had been dismissed from one restaurant in Rishon Lezion a few weeks ago for flirting with a Jewish waitress, but returned to work in the kitchen and slept on the premises the night before he took a bus to Tel Aviv to carry out his mission.

"Restaurant workers do not remember him talking politics. There was no sign he had any political interest," said a lawyer for one of the two restaurant owners released on £5,000 bail after being arrested for employing the Palestinian without work permits.

"He had been an employee and had worked at several places in Tel Aviv and other places in the centre of the country," said Yaacov Perry, former head of the Shin Bet internal security service. Mr Perry added: "From what I understand, he aroused the attention of the manager of the Apropos café because he was wearing a long coat even though it was 26C (78F) and most people were in shirt sleeves." However, he would have detonated the bomb if approached, so there was no way to prevent the attack.

Rishon Lezion police arrested 23 illegal Palestinian workers over the weekend who were working in four restaurants, where they are favoured by employers because they accept low wages and are hard workers. The Tel Aviv daily, *Haaretz*, reported that all the owners — who were also arrested — had allowed the Arabs to sleep on the premises "even after the Tel Aviv attack".

In a statement Hamas, the Islamic Resistance Movement, believed to have at least 100 more volunteer suicide bombers, said: "[Binyamin] Netanyahu has to realise that the failure to change his current [settlement] policies will lead to an explosive situation and a crisis in the entire region."

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Diplomatic dilemmas await Gore in Beijing

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

AL GORE, the American Vice-President, will need to step gingerly when he sets foot in Beijing today for four days of talks.

A year in the planning, the visit had once been envisaged as a showcase for Mr Gore to show off his skills as a world statesman as just one of his qualifications to succeed Bill Clinton in 2000. But that was before America's China policy was sabotaged by the campaign financing row, with allegations that China funnelled money into last year's election through proxy donors to try to influence the Administration and members of Congress.

Although China has denied the charges as slanderous, Chinese officials are under investigation by the FBI, making Mr Gore's task more complicated. After some dithering among his aides, he has decided to broach the subject with Chinese leaders, but in a non-accusatory way, he said. Mr Gore's own legally dubious role adds to the delicacy of his position — he made telephone solicitations from the White House and attended a fundraising event at a Buddhist temple.

He is also in a quandary over the chance to seal a lucrative deal for the sale of Boeing 777s to China. The contract would be a victory for the American aircraft manufacturer over Europe's Airbus Industrie and would protect hundreds of jobs at Boeing's factories in Seattle.

At one time the Administration banged the drum loudly for American business in China, but that commercial diplomacy is muted now. White House officials fear any gestures that could be interpreted as paybacks for Chinese campaign contributions. Only after much agonising did Mr Gore decide that he probably will attend the ceremony if the Boeing contract is signed while he is in Beijing.

Another dilemma for Mr Gore is China's eagerness to win admission to the World Trade Organisation. The Vice-President might have been eager to help, but he has been trumped by Richard Gephardt, leader of the House Democrats and Mr Gore's rival for the party's presidential nomination in 2000.

Mr Gephardt, denouncing the Administration's progress in challenging China over human rights abuses, has introduced legislation that would require congressional approval for Chinese admission to the WTO. The majority Republicans may gleefully take him up on it.

Mr Gore is the highest-ranking American official to visit China since President Bush in 1989, a few months before the Tiananmen Square crackdown. His discussions will cover a broad range of issues, including Hong Kong.

He will also deal with preparations for the promised exchange of state visits. President Jiang Zemin is expected to travel to America this year and Mr Clinton tentatively plans to go to China next year. Both these trips could be clouded unless the campaign gifts controversy has been tidied up by then.

☐ **Tokyo:** Mr Gore yesterday ruled out any cuts in US forces in Japan, saying it was the "worst time" for such reductions. Before flying to China, Mr Gore had talks last night with Yukihiko Ikeda, Japan's Foreign Minister. Mr Ikeda also ruled out cuts at present. *(Reuter)*

SAVITA KIRLOSKAR / REUTER



A wax model of the Dalai Lama is adjusted by a member of Madame Tussaud's at a travel fair in Bombay

Dalai Lama hopes to make deal with Chinese on Tibet

FROM JONATHAN MIRSKY IN TAIPEI

THE Dalai Lama, Tibet's exiled spiritual leader, said yesterday at the start of a visit to Taiwan that he was optimistic of reaching an agreement with Beijing about autonomy for his country.

He said he had informed the Chinese about his Taiwan trip and the response had been less harsh than he expected.

The Dalai Lama was showered with praise on arrival, but Beijing warned the Taiwanese Government that the exiled leader is "a criminal splittist".

Thousands of monks, nuns, Tibetan refugees and ordinary Buddhists mobbed him when he visited the Fuguangshan temple, where amid the beating of drums and bells he was escorted by one of his hosts in Taiwan, Master Xing Yuan, the temple's founder. Once inside, speaking in Tibetan and occasionally Chinese, the Dalai Lama led prayers for peace.

Although he described the purpose of his six-day visit to Taiwan, his first, as promoting "basic human values and religious harmony", the visit has been denounced in Beijing by the official *People's Daily* as the "Taiwan authorities and the Dalai Lama clique colluding and using each other, consorting with evildoers, going further down the road of splitting China".

The Dalai Lama is looking forward to meeting President Lee Teng-hui. The meeting will probably be in a guest house rather than in Mr Lee's office, to reduce the impression of a state welcome.

On Taiwan, Tibet is officially claimed as a part of China of which Taipei insists it is the legitimate government. The official position is represented by the Government's Mongolian and Tibetan Affairs Office, and there are Tibetan representatives in Taiwan's parliament.

The Council is sometimes accused of funding rival groups of Tibetans who do not respect the Dalai Lama. It denies this and says much of its money is spent on helping occupational training schemes for Tibetan refugees living in India.



Bush: first jump was not flawless

Bush to repeat aircraft bale-out

BY IAN BRODIE

THIS time, George Bush will *jump by choice*. The former American President, who baled out of his crippled navy bomber 52 years ago, will parachute for a second time tomorrow.

At 72, he is due to jump out of an aircraft over Arizona at 12,500ft. "The reasons behind this are strictly personal," Jim McGrath, Mr Bush's assistant, said. "It has to do with World War Two. When it happens, we'll explain it."

These cryptic remarks have given rise to speculation that Mr Bush may be trying to exorcise demons from his earlier jump. Two crew members died in the episode and the issue flared up as a dispute during Mr Bush's presidential campaign in 1988.

In 1944, Mr Bush, then a 20-year-old pilot, came under anti-aircraft fire during a raid over the Japanese-held island of Chichijima in the Pacific. In a 1987 account, which differed from his earlier versions, Mr Bush said the two crew had been killed and the plane was engulfed in flames. But the war hero carried on to the target and dropped his bomb before baling out.

His story was questioned by a gunner in the plane just in front of Mr Bush's who said his plane was never on fire and it was possible Mr Bush "could have saved" his two crewmen "if they were alive" if he had attempted a water landing.

Mr Bush has admitted his jump under fire was not flawless. He pulled his rip cord too quickly and was gashed on his forehead when he hit the tail of his plane.

Tall Ships prepare for battle in Pacific

FROM CATHERINE FIELD IN HONG KONG

IMAGES of clipper races, nostalgia of Empire and romance of sail combined in Hong Kong's Victoria Harbour this weekend with the arrival of 33 gracious vessels which will take part in the first Tall Ships race in the northern Pacific.

The magnificent old craft will set sail for Osaka on Good Friday after a two-day regatta in the Fragrant Harbour. Competitors from as far afield as Poland, Mexico and Colombia are taking part in the 1,450-mile voyage. The biggest ship taking part is the *Dar Mlodziezy* from Poland, which is 354 ft long, and the 294 ft *Cuauhtemoc* from Mexico.

"When the ships leave it will be the most phenomenal sight. They will head off to the east, so there will be the mainland of Kowloon on one side and the Peak on Hong Kong island on the other. With the ships fully rigged, it will be terrific," said Ian Dale, director of Hong Kong's Marine Department.

The journey comprises two racing stages from Hong Kong to Okinawa and Kagoshima to Osaka, and a cruise-in-company leg of 350 miles from Okinawa to Kagoshima. The biggest ships will sail with up to 200 crew members.

On board *Ji Fung* (Spirit of Revolution), the ship representing Hong Kong, are a lawyer, doctor, administrator, plumber and an air-traffic controller who, according to the captain, Greg Tonnison, know basically nothing about sailing. "We are all in the same boat. Of course, we don't want it to sink," said Sung Woei-min, 25, a graphic designer.

Sailing may be the oldest form of locomotion, but the sextant will play only a decorative role in this trip. The captains are relying on the latest gadgetry — global positioning system navigation and radar.

The sight of the ships harks back to the 1860s when there was a clipper race from Canton, and later Fuzhou, China's principal tea port, to London each year. British tea merchants paid an extra £2 per tonne for tea for the first trader to arrive from China.

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Lifelong campaign against Mobutu pays off for Kabila

FROM SAM KILEY, AFRICA CORRESPONDENT, IN KINSHASA

THE hatchet-faced, 6ft-tall Tutsi bodyguard stared down at his leader, Laurent Desire Kabila, a roly-poly revolutionary with a smile as ready as a humourless Tutsi's frown.

When I first met the head of Zaire's rebellion at his base in Uvira in South Kivu last November, it was difficult to believe that the English-speaking Tutsi from Rwanda, and a graduate of Belgrade University, could have been a comrade-in-arms of the legendary Che Guevara.

Is Mr Kabila, who now controls a third of Zaire and may topple President Mobutu, a puppet of Rwanda, Uganda, and their allies in Washington? Is he just a front-man for Rwanda's operation against Hutu extremists in refugee camps inside east Zaire? Or is he using the Tutsis as stalking-horses for a genuine rebellion against dictatorship? Five months later the answer is "yes" to all three questions. And, so far, "no" to views that he is planning to use Zaire as a base for a pan-African Communist revolution.

Born in 1939 in Jadotville, now Likasi, in what was Katanga province, Mr Kabila has been fighting against President Mobutu most of his life, sustaining his war efforts by allegedly indulging in gold smuggling in the provinces of North and South Kivu.

Although he is suspected of the kidnapping of three American workers at Jane Goodall's chimpanzee sanctuary at Gombe in Tanzania, Mr Kabila is now the darling of the diplomatic crowd in Washington and European capitals. But not so in Paris, where he is seen as a marionette of American plans to eclipse French influence in the region.

His language is still peppered with 1960s revolutionary slogans about "emancipation of the masses", but he has abandoned the wider Marxist rhetoric of his youth for pro-democratic clichés and commitments to a "free market throughout Zaire". This ideological switch at the age of 58 may seem suspect, but it is worth noting that six months before President Zenawi swept to power after 11 years of civil war in Ethiopia, he declared his economic model was then President Hoxha's Albania.

Mr Kabila has been tutored in how to succeed as a revolutionary in post-Cold War Africa by President Museveni of Uganda and Paul Kagame, Rwanda's Vice-President and Defence Minister. They both came to power through rebel forces and are much admired by American officials.

No one, least of all Uganda and Rwanda, expected the rebellion of Tutsi Banyamulenge in Zaire which they backed last November would climax in a national uprising against President Mobutu's dictatorship. "In the early stages, the Rwandan and Ugandan aims were clear ... to send military officers to help the Banyamulenge defend themselves [against Hutu and Zairean extremists] and at the same time rid east Zaire of Hutu extremists and Ugandan rebel movements. This was quickly achieved, but what followed surprised everyone," a Western envoy in Kinshasa said yesterday.

Mr Kabila is the ideal candidate to represent the Alliance of Democratic Forces for Liberation of Congo-Zaire. In 1960, he had fought for Patrice Lumumba, then Prime Minister, against Katanga secessionists, and had taken part in uprisings in North and South Kivu. By the mid-1960s he fled to Kenya and Tanzania after the rebel "governments" he helped to set up were routed by Mr Mobutu's army with the help of mercenaries and Belgian paratroops.

Mr Kabila resurfaced in 1977 to take part in an uprising against President Mobutu in Kisangani, but was once again ejected, this time by French and Moroccan troops.

Now, however, "no one thought that Kabila would sweep through Zaire so quickly", the ambassador said. "But he has become the one man who has exposed the myth of the state of Zaire: the man that said 'the emperor has no clothes'. He is the man Zaireans now trust to put the country straight," he declared.

JEAN-MARC BOUJU AP PHOTO



Laurent Kabila, the rebel leader, with UN envoy Mohamed Sahnoun, is cheered by supporters in Kisangani

Zaire talks hope rises

ZAIRE'S Government inched closer to negotiations with eastern rebels yesterday after a haggard President Mobutu emerged from three days of seclusion in the capital to greet Thabo Mbeki, South Africa's Deputy President (Sam Kiley writes).

After kissing his visitor, Mr Mobutu, 66, croaked out a few lines of explanation for his second return in eight months from cancer treatment in Europe. "I have come back not to look after the interests and the fortunes of Mobutu, as some of you [the press] write, but to look after the interests of Zaire," he gasped from beneath his trademark leopard-skin hat.

Mr Mbeki said he had delivered a personal letter from President Mandela, and gave a broad hint that Mr Mandela was pressing the Zairean President to agree to negotiations with the rebel leader, Laurent Kabila.

Five found dead in fire at cult home

St Casimir, Canada: The bodies of three women and two men were found by firemen in a Quebec home belonging to a member of the Swiss-based Order of the Solar Temple cult, police said here yesterday.

A girl and two boys, discovered behind the house, were being treated by a doctor.

The possibility of a collective suicide was being investigated after the blaze. More than 70 members of the sect were killed in apparent group suicides in 1994 and 1995. (*AFP*)

Rival fans clash

Amsterdam: A man was killed and dozens injured in a battle between hundreds of rival soccer fans (Mark Fuller writes). Supporters of Ajax FC of Amsterdam and Feyenoord of Rotterdam attacked one another with baseball bats, knives and hammers in a field on the outskirts of Beverwijk, near Amsterdam. Police said the fight was pre-arranged.

Bomb suspect

Washington: Canada has arrested a Saudi man as a suspect in the lorry bomb attack on a barracks that killed 19 American soldiers near Dhahran in Saudi Arabia last June (Ian Brodie writes). Hani Abdel Rahim Hussein al-Sayegh, 28, is wanted for questioning by the *FBI in Washington.*

Spicer charged

Sydney: Colonel Tim Spicer, leader of the mercenaries hired by Papua New Guinea, is due to face a minor firearms charge in Port Moresby today (Roger Maynard writes). Australia's largest company, BHP, closed its steel mill in the capital and evacuated about 20 employees.

Life on the line

Tokyo: A boy aged 18 months escaped with a minor cut to his head when he crouched on the tracks as a train passed over him in Nagasaki, with the driver desperately trying to brake. The boy had been visiting his grandparents, who live near the tracks. (*AP*)

Northerners put faith in Berisha

FROM TOM WALKER IN TIRANA

TO THE north of Tirana lies rolling upland — a Third World mishmash of half-built villas, pit latrines and wrecked cars. This is "Chechen" country: the hardiest of Albanians, highlanders who carry their guns with pride and shoot skywards in support of President Berisha.

"To us he is a legend — he cut the rope of 50 years of communism from around our necks," said Elmaz Kurti, a retired army officer from the grim northern chromium-mining town of Kukes. "We will take up arms for him, we will go to the middle of Tirana to defend him."

It was a wedding day, and the Kalashnikovs in the Tirana suburb of Bathorne were unusually active. Against the din of gunfire and gypsy music, the people were quick to gather, settling in the harsh sun on a variety of armchairs and stools outside the house of Mr Kurti's brother, Mahmud, the local *Kryeplak* or leader.

"We don't have anything against the South but they must do as the Government says and put down their guns. The state is the state, and if the President was really applying the law we would have war. He is being very tolerant," he explained to nods of approval from young and old.

A visit to Bathorne quickly dispels any notion of there being room to negotiate with southern rebels over the President's resignation. There are 22,000 people in these sprawling settlements that cloak the northern outskirts of Tirana: people driven out of their homes near the Serbian border by dire poverty and a disastrous reservoir project inspired by the former Communist leader, Enver Hoxha. President Berisha's village of Tropoje is in their heartland, and his is the only voice to be trusted.

Albania is a clannish country where politics in the North is a question of sticking with who you know. President Berisha is the man of these highland people, and those who question his rule are part of a Communist, American and media-inspired plot. "The big powers and USA have always tried to split Albania," said Mahmud Kurti. "If it happens, we will fight."

"We are not frightened of these southern bands. There is no other way but to kill them all," Elmaz Kurti said.

A young Shik secret policeman hobbled over, his right leg bandaged. Ahmet Doda had the misfortune to be on duty in the southern town of Vlore during the pyramid riots in January. When the Shik station was attacked by the mob, he was shot while leaping from a second-floor window, and eventually airlifted to safety by helicopter.

India tracks killer wolves

Rae Bareli, India: The end is near for the wolves of Rae Bareli after the animals ate five children and mutilated five others along the banks of the Lone river in northern Uttar Pradesh state (Christopher Thomas writes).

Riflemen are tracking the killer packs in 100 villages. One wolf was shot on Wednesday, but it limped off and escaped. It was the first stroke of luck in a battle of wits with the cunning wolf-packs, which are starving because traditional food sources have all but disappeared. Last year 22 children were killed and 25 injured. Wolves are protected, but the law permits killing them if they prey on people.

British explorer safe after ordeal in Arctic

BY AMANDA LOOSE

A BRITISH polar explorer has been flown to safety after falling through ice into the Arctic Ocean.

Alan Bywater, 21, a computer studies student from London but now living in Vancouver, Canada, fell through thin ice on the tenth day of his unsupported solo attempt to walk to the North Pole. He arrived at Base Camp in Resolute Bay, in Canada's North-West Territories, late on Saturday night suffering from acute frostbite in his hands and feet.

Mr Bywater said: "I thought on more than one occasion that I would definitely die out there. I've been incredibly lucky. My left leg went through the ice, and my body, from the waist downwards, suddenly plunged into the ocean."

Despite losing all his equipment, including his radio, Mr Bywater managed to clamber back on to the ice. He spent six hours looking for the tracks of fellow polar explorers David Hempleman-Adams, 40, and Rune Gjeldnes, 25, from Norway, who were also attempting an unsupported walk to the North Pole. "I knew it was my only chance of survival," he said, describing the relief when he saw their tent.

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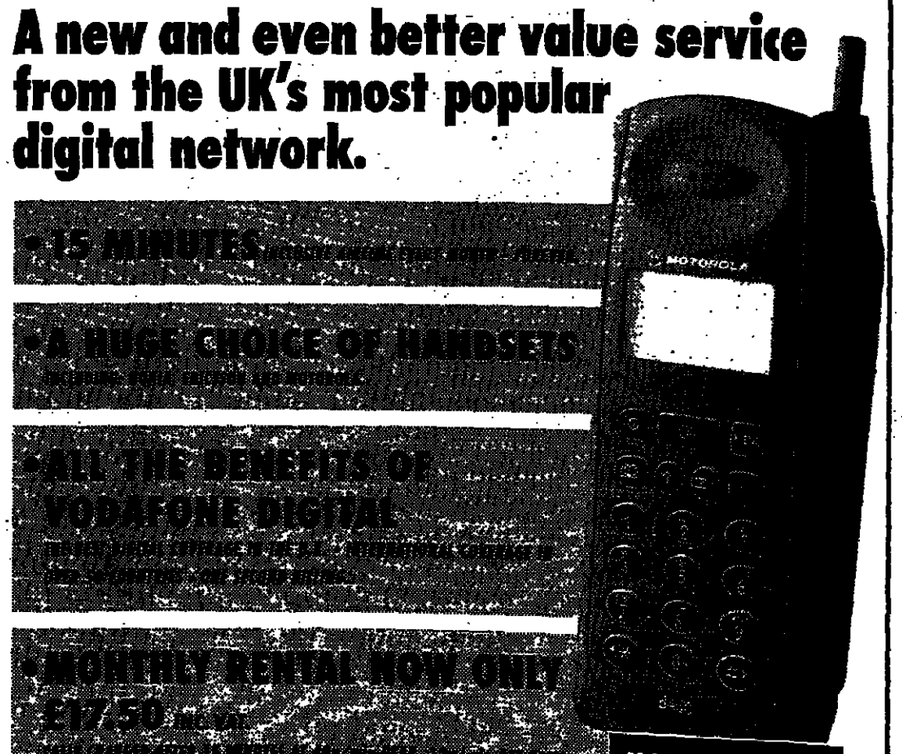
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TIMES SPORT

MONDAY MARCH 24 1997

DOCTOR'S ORDERS GIVE HODDLE A HEADACHE



Sick notes claim fantasy first eleven

BY ROB HUGHES
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

OPERATION England versus Mexico at Wembley on Saturday is beginning to resemble the farce of *Carry On Doctor*. Already a complete and recognisable England XI has been withdrawn from the fixture and, yesterday, as the dance between Alex Ferguson and the England coach, Glenn Hoddle, took more twists and turns than any of the wounded players should be asked to attempt this week, it looked curiously close to compromising on the ethics of club versus country.

On Saturday Ferguson had decreed that three of his players, Gary Neville, Gary Pallister and David Beckham, would not subject themselves to the new England rule that, in case players are malingering or being held by their clubs for reasons other than genuine medical infirmity, they *must* travel down to Bisham Abbey and have their various ailments put under the rule of Dr John Crane. "They will not be going down to join England," insisted Ferguson. "They will remain under our care."

Barely 24 hours later, Ferguson relented in the case of Gary Neville, who had played under United's care with a painkiller injected into his ankle against FC Porto last Wednesday, but had not been fit to perform in the league game at Everton on Saturday.

The deal struck between Ferguson and Hoddle was that if, indeed, Neville proved to have no chance of representing his country, then he would be replaced by his younger brother, Philip, another United player.

A further twist was added when Hoddle invited another United player, David May, 26 and in the form of his life, to step into the shoes vacated by Pallister. Of all the ironies this week, it would be remarkable if May were to win his first cap for England, remembering that his distinction at Old Trafford was to have replaced Steve Bruce, whom many believed to have been the best defender never to have played for his country.

Hoddle will also be watching the match at Highbury between Arsenal and Liverpool tonight with some anxiety. Seven of his squad will be on show: David James, Dominic Matteo, Jamie Redknapp, Robbie Fowler and Steve McManaman for Liverpool and Tony Adams and Martin Keown for Arsenal. Hoddle can ill afford any more withdrawals.

In a further development, David Seaman could return for Arsenal after a six-match absence following a knee operation. His recovery came too late for inclusion in Hoddle's squad.

At least David Batty and Robert Lee, who played in Newcastle United's 1-1 draw with Wimbledon at Selhurst Park yesterday afternoon, and Paul Ince, who played for Inter Milan in their 2-1 victory over Parma, were expected to report fit for duty.

The overcrowding of the fixture list, the dire need of clubs to try to nurse players through the crush of the last months of the season, clash with England's desire to fill a blank Saturday with, in essence, a training match.

The day is open for such a game because players from 11 countries are absent from their Premiership clubs for World Cup qualifying matches. Wales play Belgium this weekend, Northern Ireland are at home to Portugal, and Ireland take their English league players to Macedonia.

The problem is global. At a medical symposium held by Uefa, football's European governing body, in Italy earlier this month, 70 sports doctors agreed that footballers are being submitted to almost intolerable loads. Uefa, with its own expanded Champions' League, contributes to that problem, as does Fifa, the world governing body, whose World Cup qualifying games have burgeoned to more than 400 between competing nations and who have, putting politics before the quality or the need for rest among performers, now contrived to have 36 nations in the finals in France in 1998.

Can we wonder that, when the Football Association seeks to inflict high and mighty medical rules on the clubs, rather than offer consultation and co-operation, the likes of Manchester United are inclined to rebel. Ferguson can justifiably claim that his club is on the threshold of doing more to restore England's reputation abroad than the national team.

The same, in reverse, applies to Southampton. They stand timorously on the brink of relegation. Matthew le Tissier is the man whose goals have saved them in the past. So, when Graeme Souness, the manager seeking to keep the South Coast club afloat in the Premiership on gates of 15,000, clashes swords with Hoddle, there should be some understanding.

Le Tissier, claim Southampton, has foot and groin injuries. It sounds like a new epidemic. But should le Tissier be pressed into service and then exacerbate his injuries, Southampton might lose him for the season and be relegated. We might well then see a High Court claim for a portion of the £15 million loss that Premiership status is estimated to be worth to a club each season. The chairman of the FA, Keith Wiseman, happens to be on the board of Southampton FC.

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These are complex and emotive issues in the club versus country tug of war that has stretched some players to breaking point. Le Tissier himself commented at the weekend: "I won't be fully fit (for England) and you saw what happens if you play when you're not fit." He was referring to Alan Shearer, coming back too soon for Euro 96, and attempting to run through injury against Italy this year. He might have added the name of Jamie Redknapp who, twice injured on England duty, has lost the better part of a season for Liverpool, the club that pays his wages.

To the team above, one might add Gareth Southgate, Teddy Sheringham and Tony Adams, who are all likely to attend Dr Crane's surgery, sicknotes in hand.

Hoddle's need for a workout, for an England team bearing some resemblance to an authentic unit for World Cup matches to come, runs contrary to the club campaigns. Hoddle is a man of faith, indeed he has indulged in faith healing to cure injuries of his own. But where money, ethics, and the growth of fixtures collide, not even a faith healer can solve the insoluble.

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World Cup finds ITV at sixes and sevens



MATTHEW BOND

TV ACTION REPLAY

"There's a lot of the amber nectar going down in those stands." Of course there was, this was the Rugby World Cup sevens in Hong Kong; but this was still *a notable* remark for at least two reasons.

First, because it was possibly the first banal, rugby cliché uttered by Nick Farr-Jones, a man whose eloquent *contributions* to the BBC's five nations' championship coverage — all drift defences and *gain lines* — are limited only by the minor handicap of having been born an Australian. Second, because he was making the comments on Eurosport, the pan-European *satellite* channel.

Signing up Farr-Jones signalled the seriousness of the *satellite* channel's intent to provide a real alternative to the rather half-hearted coverage being provided by ITV, the terrestrial rights-holder. By the time ITV's live coverage got properly underway yesterday morning (on Friday it settled for late-night highlights, while on Saturday, extended highlights went out — more understandably — against *Grandstand*) the Eurosport trio of Mike Wedderburn, Paul Dickenson and Farr-Jones were into their third morning of mixing up live and delayed coverage.

And very enjoyable it was too, although it was a shame that having signed up such a relaxed and knowledgeable team of commentators, little thought seemed to have gone into making the on-screen pictures look good. Eurosport's own graphics were messily superimposed on top of those provided by the host broadcaster and, more seriously, play (even of the recorded and presumably haltable variety) was regularly lost to advertising breaks.

Given the marathon nature of the Eurosport commentary effort, it seems churlish to focus on the occasional slip. But one fell so painfully into the "there but for the grace of God..." category that it will stay in the memories of those who heard it forever.

Saturday morning, South Africa were playing Hong Kong, the cameras had lingered on South Africa's rainbow-shirted supporters and Farr-Jones had gone into full white *liberal*, isn't it good for South Africa, isn't it good for rugby mode. Ten seconds later he very confidently mis-identified one of the two black players then on the field for the Springbok seven. The silence that followed was short but significant.

"Actually Nick ..." began Wedderburn, who — as Harlequin fans will know, but Eurosport viewers may not — is black. The silence that followed that gentle correction was a little longer, far more painful and only really ended when Wedderburn himself (deliberately or accidentally, who knows?) made exactly the same mistake himself.

ITV's problems, meanwhile, were of a different sort. While the Eurosport team were commentating off monitors in Paris, ITV — very properly — were on site with the better elements of their 15-a-side World Cup team. John Taylor teamed up with Steve Smith to their customary good effect, while Bob Simmons partnered Jonah Lomu — a tad less successfully.

The real problems, however (apart from England being knocked out before either broadcaster was on air) started when Lomu returned to the presentation studio and Jim Rosenthal.

Rosenthal was unrecognisable from the man who made such a professional job of the Australian Grand Prix two weeks ago. He was completely in awe of Lomu, unable to string together anything resembling a coherent question.

But if you thought that exchange was painful, you really had to hear the interview with Mrs and Mrs Lomu conducted by a female "reporter" whose name I did not catch. Displaying a technique that made Louise Goodman, ITV's new pit-lane reporter, look like Jeremy Paxman, the Lomus were asked the sort of books they enjoyed reading, whether they planned to have any children in the future and — having been firmly rebuffed on that point — whether they had any plans at all?

Thank heavens the final was good.

GOLF: SPANIARD WINS IN STYLE ON HOME SOIL TO COMPLETE LONG WALK BACK TO UPPER REACHES OF SPORT

Olazabal's feat underlines quality of return

FROM MEL WEBB IN GRAN CANARIA

AN ODYSSEY of misery and pain so severe that at one time he must have wondered if he would ever hit a golf ball in anger again ended in exultation for José María Olazábal yesterday when he capped a tumultuous return to the game by winning on only his third comeback appearance.

Olazábal, 31, took the Turespaña Masters and nearly £62,000 here at Maspalomas with a final, flawless round of 67 and a total of 272, 20 under par. He took the title by two strokes from Lee Westwood, with Paul Broadhurst and Eduardo Romero a further shot back. The Englishmen and the Argentinian played fine golf in the sun-soaked Canary Islands, but for the sake of the PGA European Tour, for the Royal and Ancient game as a whole but, most of all, for Olazábal himself, it was a day for undiluted celebration.

Nobody could have guessed when the Spaniard won the Volvo PGA Championship in May, 1994, that it would be 34 months before he would again walk into the winner's circle with that characteristic flat-footed gait of his. It had been his feet, indeed, that had kept him out of tournament golf for those long months and years of inactivity, doubt and agony. The rest of the golfing world can guess, but only he knows what this performance means to him.

He gave the barest clue to the depth of his despair and the height of his joy in a press conference that was tinged with tears and emotion. "When the moment came when I knew I was going to win, many thoughts came to my mind," he said. "I thought of the heartbreaking times when I thought I would not be able to play again. I never thought I could do this so quickly. This was a very difficult moment and very special for me."

It was somehow symbolic that he enjoyed his moment of triumph on Spanish soil and in front of his own people. The golfers of Spain and oceans beyond had been through his purgatory with him: a great surge of goodwill flowed in his direction from the four winds last night.

It seems hardly conceivable that Olazábal could possibly become this competitive this soon after returning to the game in the Dubai Desert Classic last month. He was twelfth there, and his performance was enough for him to be named player of the month. If only the members of the Fourth Estate who voted for him then had known what was to come. Surely, they need do no more than play a reprise of their debate when they deliberate on the award for March.

Olazábal has been playing his prospects in a minor key this last month, even after finishing fourth in the Portuguese Open last week. He was not comfortable over the ball, he said repeatedly, he was still suffering with his feet, he was not happy off the tee, he needed to become more consistent before he could even begin to think of winning. He was, perhaps, right; he had, literally, to walk before he could think of breaking into a trot, let alone run.

In spite of his protestations, it had been obvious since that performance in Dubai that he had timed his return almost to perfection. He did not want to come back before he could be a contender, his pride would not allow him to do that. How effective he was is now clear — it has taken him only 216 holes of golf to achieve his sixteenth PGA European Tour victory.

Olazábal started the day two strokes behind Westwood and José Coceres, but he led the field after playing only four holes, two of which he birdied while Westwood dropped a shot when he hit his second shot into a palm tree at the 4th. This, if ever there wss one, was the defining moment of this last round. It was the first time Olazábal had led since his return and he was never again to be headed.

Olazábal picked up a further shot at the 6th with a 25-foot putt. That put him two ahead of the field. Two more birdies coming home completed a faultless round of six birdies.

He may not be in perfect shape yet; he insists he is not. With the US Masters only three weeks off, he has to sharpen his game off the tee, and he recognises the fact. For the moment, this was good enough. It was victory: and victory, when the alternative only last summer might have been a wheelchair, was precious indeed.

FINAL SCORES

Great Britain and Ireland unless stated

272: J-M Olazábal (Sp) 70, 67, 68, 67. 274: L Westwood 72, 69, 68, 71. 276: P Broadhurst 69, 72, 67, 68; E Romero (Arg) 70, 70, 67, 69. 277: D Gilford 70, 69, 70, 68, J Coceres (Arg) 67, 71, 65, 74. 278: D Borrego (Sp) 70, 72, 68, 68. 279: I Garrido (Sp) 70, 71, 71, 67, I Feliu (Sp) 73, 69, 70, 67; R Goosen (SA) 69, 71, 69, 70. 280: I Garbutt 73, 70, 69, 68, S Henderson 69, 71, 71, 69, P Mitchell 68, 73, 69, 70, D Hospital (Sp) 71, 71, 68, 70, M Fioriol (It) 72, 69, 68, 71. 281: A Sandywell 71, 67, 72, 71; P Cuma (Switz) 74, 64, 70, 73. 282: D Chopra (Swe) 71, 73, 70, 68, F Cea (Sp) 71, 71, 70, 70.



ALLSPORT

Olazábal drives off the 17th on his way to victory in the Turespaña Masters yesterday

Davies casts long shadow

FROM PATRICIA DAVIES IN PHOENIX, ARIZONA

KELLY ROBBINS and Barb Mucha, the two Americans who were leading the Standard Register Ping tournament at Moon Valley by one shot after three rounds, knew that they would not be the centre of attention when the final round began yesterday. The champion of choice was Laura Davies and anyone else would be a party-pooper.

Robbins, a United States Solheim Cup player who won the Diet Dr Pepper National Pro-Am this year, understood the partisanship. "It's kinda neat to see Laura play so well, year after year, here," she said. "I won't be ignoring her — I'll be watching the leaderboards like I usually do. I like to know what's going on."

Davies, the world No 1, was aiming to win the event for the fourth successive year to put her in the record books alongside the legendary Walter Hagen and Gene Sarazen.

Davies had six birdies in a round of 70, three under par, on Saturday, for a total of 209, level with Karrie Webb, the Australian who won the United States money-list last year. They were one behind Robbins, who dropped two shots when she drove out of bounds at the 17th, and Mucha. "I've a chance, so I'm happy," Davies said. "All I wanted was to be in a position to challenge on Sunday. To win four in a row is something to go for and on the first tee on the first day that's as nervous as I've been."

DETAILS

United States unless stated

LEADERS AFTER THREE ROUNDS: 208: B Mucha 65, 70, 73, K Robbins 67, 68, 73. 209: K Webb (Aus) 71, 68, 70; L Davies (GB) 70, 69, 70. 210: D Cox-Jones (Can) 66, 70, 74. 211: L Brower 69, 72, 70, M Redman 69, 70, 73, M Lunn 69, 68, 74. 212: B Iverson 72, 73, 67; N Tschetter 69, 69, 74, K Weiss 68, 69, 75. 213: J Geddes 72, 73, 68, C Hill 71, 74, 68; J Morley 72, 71, 70, L Hackney 70, 73, 70; H Kobayashi (Japan) 71, 69, 73, A Benz 68, 71, 73; C Figg-Currier 70, 69, 74. 214: M Hasso (Japan) 72, 70, 72. 215: C Sorenstam (Swe) 76, 71, 68. 218: K Marshall (GB) 74, 71, 73.

The course measures 6,435 yards, the longest on the LPGA (Ladies' Professional Golf Association) circuit, but it is playing much shorter with temperatures in the mid-nineties, 20 degrees above normal. As Davies put it: "Yardage is out the window."

The world's longest-hitting woman used her driver only five times in the third round — at the first and third and at three of the four par-fives, the fourth, eighth and tenth. "I think the course is now starting to favour the straight hitters more than the long hitters," she said.

Laidback though she is, there is no doubting Davies's determination here. When she missed the cut in Tucson a week ago, she did not visit Las Vegas for a weekend at the tables, but went to Phoenix to practice. Admittedly, a race track and a dog track were available to keep the inveterate punter occupied, but four in a row is not the only game in town: Davies needs one more win to reach 50 worldwide.

Davies casts a long shadow but it will not have escaped her notice — and should not escape anyone else's — that her compatriot Lisa Hackney and Joanne Morley were handily placed on 213, six under par, and Sweden's Charlotta Sorenstam, another LPGA rookie, was on 215, with Alison Nicholas, after a 68, five under par, on Saturday.

Woosnam confident after final flourish

FROM A CORRESPONDENT IN ORLANDO, FLORIDA

IAN WOOSNAM regained his form too late to make an impact on the Bay Hill Invitational, but he goes into two big tournaments with renewed heart after a closing round of 68 in Orlando yesterday.

Woosnam, whose hopes of a third win on the US Tour were destroyed by a third round of 76, collected five birdies with the help of a new driver as he finished with a total of 287, one under par.

He plays next in this week's *Players Championship* and will then spend a week at his holiday home in Barbados before heading for the Masters at Augusta, where he triumphed in 1991.

"I tried out a new driver with a different shaft and suddenly I was hitting the ball straight again," Woosnam said. "I had also been hooking my irons, but I seem to have solved that problem."

His iron play was certainly impressive at the start of the final round. He birdied the first three holes, twice tapping in from 18 inches, before settling down to play par golf until he was unfortunate to drive into a deep divot on the tenth fairway.

From there he hacked into a bunker before missing from six feet to drop his only shot of the day. But he hit back by almost eagling the 517-yard 16th, where he got home in two with a three-iron. He then struck a superb four-iron to eight feet at the last to finish with a birdie.

"It might easily have been a 66," Woosnam said. "I had a few putts lip out, but this has made me feel much better."

Colin Montgomerie went into the last round four shots behind a little-known American, Omar Uresti, who was 11 under par and a stroke ahead of the field.

Macree goes close to springing a surprise

REBECCA MACREE, from Essex, the England No 7, gave Michelle Martin, the world No 2, from Australia, a scare before Martin emerged victorious over five sets in the final of the Cup Olympics women's squash tournament in Antwerp. Macree, 25, lost the opening game 9-1, but then moved into the lead by taking the next two, 10-9, 9-5. Martin, in her last tournament before defending her British Open title, regained her composure, however, to secure victory by taking the last two games, 9-2, 9-3.

Jonathon Power, 22, of Canada, recorded his fourth successive win on the Professional Squash Association world tour in Budapest yesterday when he defeated Peter Nicol, of Scotland, 15-11, 11-15, 15-3, 15-5 in the final of the Hungarian Open championship.

Barsby builds big lead

CRICKET: Trevor Barsby defied illness to score a century as Queensland tightened their grip on the Sheffield Shield final in Perth yesterday. Barsby, playing in his hundredth and last Shield match, had an upset stomach before taking the field, but spent more than five hours at the crease in scoring 111. His innings allowed Queensland to reach 259 for six at the close of the third day for a lead of 414.

Earlier, Western Australia's first innings had lasted just another seven balls after they had resumed at 164 for nine. Michael Kasprowicz, the former Australia pace bowler, took the wicket of Bret Mulder for Western Australia to be all out for 165. Queensland must win the five-day match to capture the Shield title while Western Australia need only avoid defeat because of their higher end-of-season finish.

Leander retain title



ROWING: Leander, with Steve Redgrave, right, at No 7 and Matthew Pinsent at stroke, retained the Head of the River title on Saturday, but their winning margin was not as great as many people had expected. They completed the Mortlake to Putney course in 17min 28sec to win by 7sec from London University, with London I third, a further 4sec adrift.

Morgan secures victory

BOWLS: Russell Morgan, from the East Dorset club, in Christchurch, won the Warners all-England champion of champions singles title at Bembridge, on the Isle of Wight, yesterday, beating Paul Bennett, of Bodmin, 21-6 in a disappointingly one-sided final. Bennett was never in the hunt, as Morgan motored into a 15-1 lead after eight ends and was 20-4 ahead after 13.

Hayles still unbeaten

CYCLING: Rob Hayles remains unbeaten in the Ambrosia Premier Calender 16-race series thanks to another success, in the 100-kilometre event at the Eastway circuit, in London, on Saturday. A dangerous-looking group of ten escaped after 13 kilometres before Hayles closed the gap, built a ten-second lead of his own and then held off a spirited challenge from John Tanner on the final bend.

Dark Blue triumph

GOLF: Oxford continued their impressive run of victories in the University match with a comfortable weekend victory over Cambridge at Royal St George's, Sandwich. Having won the foursomes by 3½-1½, Oxford took the singles by 7½-2½. James Fletcher and Omar Malik, the captain, were the only singles winners for Cambridge, who went down to their sixth successive defeat.

Fast start for McRae



MOTOR RALLYING: Colin McRae, of Great Britain, right, and Carlos Sainz, of Spain, shared the lead in the Portuguese rally after the opening stage yesterday. Both drivers were timed at 1min 01sec over a prologue reduced to 1.7 kilometres after claims that the full course was dangerous. McRae, driving a Subaru, leads the world championship after three rounds.

Champion disqualified

BOXING: Roy Jones lost his World Boxing Council light-heavyweight title on Friday when he was disqualified for hitting Montell Griffin while he was kneeling at Atlantic City, New Jersey. It was Jones's first loss in 34 bouts. Jones had put Griffin down in the ninth round and then hit him twice when he got to a knee. Tony Perez, the referee, then counted Griffin out, but he was later awarded the bout.

Browne takes over

CRICKET: Jimmy Adams and Junior Murray have been dropped by West Indies for the third Test against India at the Kensington Oval, starting on Thursday. Courtney Browne will take over from Murray behind the stumps. Ian Bishop, who pulled out of the second Test because of injury, has also been included. Mervyn Dillon, who replaced Bishop, keeps his place in the 13-man squad.

TENNIS: EARLY DEFEAT FOR BRITAIN'S NO 1 SUGGESTS PROLONGED REST MAY BE NEEDED TO CURE PERSISTENT INJURY

Davis Cup prospects hang on Henman's elbow

FROM ALIX RAMSAY IN KEY BISCAYNE, FLORIDA

TIM HENMAN is leaving Florida rather earlier than expected, taking with him many of Great Britain's hopes of progressing in the Davis Cup. On Saturday he was beaten in the second round of the Lipton championships by Julian Alonso, another of Spain's armada of promising newcomers, 7-6, 6-2, 6-3.

It was Henman's first match since the end of February and proved that the elbow injury that he has been protecting for the past fortnight is still nowhere near cured.

Quite what is wrong with Henman's elbow remains unclear. Bill Norris, the ATP Tour trainer, described it as "a slight degenerative problem. The elbow is put together in a strange way", but Norris seems confident that "we'll get him right". Henman, on the other hand, describes the cause of the problem as "a loose body" within the joint that has flared up sporadically since he was 11 years old.

"Last time it happened, I rested for three weeks and then I was able to start playing again," Henman said. "If that's the case, it doesn't bode well for the Davis Cup. But I think, if I were playing any other tournament next week, then I wouldn't play. But I regard the Davis Cup differently. I'm desperately keen to play."

The immediate plan is to return to England and see what happens. But David Felgate, Henman's coach, seems less than impressed with the idea. Normally Henman and Felgate think and act in tandem, but this time he wants Henman to listen to his advice. "In my mind it would be an easy decision," he said.

"I don't think he should play until Tokyo, which would give him 3½ weeks' rest. He has to think of his career and not play for his country. Going out there half-cock and losing is bad for his morale and doesn't do any good for his ranking, and it lets other people think they can beat him.

"Playing the way he was forced to play against Alonso won't do anyone any good in the Davis Cup. His career must come first. This kid, with no experience, has worked out that Tim has a problem. What is somebody with Byron Black's experience and game going to make of it all?"

Alonso, still only 19, with a big first service, a considerable amount of muscle and very few nerves, made Henman look very average on Saturday. He had never won a match on the tour at this level until this week and now he finds himself in the third round. Not bad for a man who only took up tennis as a child in order to lose some weight.

Rather more worringly for Henman, he was unable to serve flat out and, once he realised he could not impose his game on Alonso, he seemed to lose the will to fight. "It probably wasn't the smartest thing to do, to play today," he said.

With Greg Rusedski still plagued by a wrist injury, David Lloyd's list of walking wounded is growing at an alarming rate. The fanfares and hurrahs surrounding the much publicised resurgence of British tennis could well be silenced come next week, when the Lawn Tennis Association's new model army is shown to be two strong and neither of them are available to play.

Still, such problems are not restricted to British shores. Boris Becker withdrew from the tournament on Saturday without hitting a ball having decided that his wrist still was not strong enough to risk in a match. As for Andre Agassi, he would be happy if his career could reach the dizzy height of the doldrums having lost miserably to Scott Draper, from Australia, 7-6, 6-1. The former world No 1 has now failed to win a set, much less a match, in his past four tournaments.

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Judges put technical competence before artistry in world championships

Lipinski leaves behind hollow impression

FROM SIMON BARNES IN LAUSANNE

THE Frenchwoman chose the circus as her theme, and skated the big top with all she possessed. But the American skated the freak show from the fairground next door and stole the judge's hearts.

The name of the geek is Tara Lipinski, 14 going on ten. On Saturday they crowned a prepubescent little girl as women's world champion figure skater. She stood on the podium, grinning goofily — "I'm still in shark," she kept saying unendearingly — all 4ft 8in and 5½ stone of her.

Odd sight: the medal podium, naturally, was in three stages, but all three heads were more or less on a level. It was, perhaps, the crowning absurdity of a peculiar but enthralling afternoon.

Sport is a bitch goddess, we all know that. But if you seek the real viciousness of caprice, then ice skating is the queen of them all. This is a fact of life in all the subjectively judged sports, from dressage to trampolining, but skating has a killer factor that no other sport can rival.

This is "artistic impression". Well, I don't know much about art, but I know a damn sight more than any skating judge, at least on Saturday's evidence. Michelle Kwan, the American who finished second, might well be thinking the same thing.

Kwan was the defending champion. She is now 16, and has trained on from last year. Precocious talent has been transmuted into grace. No longer a little girl, she is at least half a woman and certainly all teenager. She has learnt a good deal about art and a lot about worry. In a year, she has learnt self-doubt, as any angst-ridden teenager must.

But not Lipinski. She has yet to reach such a stage in her life. She skated like a whirling automaton. She is stunningly competent; there is not an ounce of dispute in that matter. But then, she has a huge advantage: the alliance of her precocious talent and her freakish size.

It is this combination that allows her to spin with such extraordinary rapidity. For that reason, there is no call for her to jump terribly high. In fact, when she performs a triple, you would still find it difficult to slide the *Journal de Genève* beneath her skates.

Her tininess also makes her landings much safer. The heavier you are, the greater your momentum and the further you skid. Skating is always a sport that favours the compactly built, but this is ridiculous.

With most things in sport, there is a trade-off. Every advantage is also a disadvantage. The super-tall goalkeeper has a huge advantage on crosses, but is vulnerable to the short-range grubber. The massive ball-winning rugby forward has no speed. And so on.

In skating, the very short skater has the advantages mentioned, but can never look truly elegant. With Lipinski, the trade-off of her virtuosity is in grace: in artistry, if you like. And yet she was not penalised for this. The judges funked it.

Infant prodigies are an uncomfortable phenomenon. You find them in chess, mathematics and music: something to do with pattern recogniton. Perhaps these freaks are most worrying in music. A child



'Doubtless she has a soul, equally certainly she has not located it yet'

may be able to play *The Goldberg Variations*, but that does not make him Glenn Gould.

And that is Lipinski for you; she is just playing the notes. Terribly well. Dazzlingly well. But, for the moment, she is just the skating equivalent of a human pianola. Doubtless she has a soul, equally certainly she has not located it yet. Or even started looking.

That is what is so endearing about Kwan. There is no more earnest seeker in the world than the teenager in search of her soul. I mean, like, what is the meaning of life? No thoughts on that matter, or on any other, from Lipinski. She was still in shark.

Kwan was in fourth place going into the free programme and knew that she would have to skate as she has never skated before to win. She had undergone a nightmare of tumbles in the United States national championships, and began her short programme here with another fall. Angst had undone her.

Begone dull care. So she thought about, like, life, you know, and death. She thought of Scott Hamilton, the great American skater who has just been diagnosed as suffering from testicular cancer. "I realised I'd been focused on the wrong thing," Kwan said. "I mean, compared to that, we're lucky just to be here. And we're here to have *fun*."

And so Kwan skated as if in a dream of beauty, and it was four minutes of pure loveliness, for, despite all the nonsense, this is a lovely sport. And the judges responded as judges should and awarded her their best marks. And so Kwan won the free programme, just as she should have done. And it was not enough.

The final results in skating all come down to the comparative placings of the panel of judges. The last skater was Irina Slutskaya, of Russia, who put up a magnificently dramatic performance, ending up with a showy double Biellman spin, skate blade clasped in her hand above her head.

Inexplicably, the judges were unmoved, and Slutskaya finished fourth. This added complication was enough to keep Kwan in second place overall, to philosophise on such matters as life and death, and heat and kitchens.

The anomaly of it all was the extraordinarily high marks that Lipinski received for artistic impression. It was as if the judges believed that someone so technically gifted *must* be an artist. And it is not true at all. It is as if they thought the *Venus de Milo* was much the same thing as a Barbie doll. The judges acceded to the wishes of the American corporate hunger for teeny heroines.

Thus they have brought discredit upon their sport, and insulted its participants. Why have marks for artistic impression in the first place, if you don't use them to discriminate between artist and freak?

But Kwan knows that, for all this, she had her destiny in her hands, and she let it slip in that initial fall. The jumps are what puts skating into the arena of sporting chance, and you either land them or you don't. Her recovery, though doomed to ultimate failure, was a noble thing. "It's a wonderful feeling," she said, "learning to fly again."

The Winter Olympics are just 11 months away, and Lipinski, aka "the Robotic Shrimp", is now in pole position. No doubt she will be a millionairess by the time the torch is lit in Japan. She might even have started to look for her soul. It is time that her sport did the same thing.

LYNNE SLADKY



Lipinski in action during her free programme, which lacked the grace shown by Kwan, her rival

SKIING

Britain in danger of missing out on Ormond potential

FROM SIMON WILDE IN TIGNES, FRANCE

NOW that Tim Henman has made British tennis respectable, there are precious few sports left to us for self-mockery. So, thank goodness for skiing, we all say. There is a sport that we will never be good at; it is not in our genes to be. Leave it to the French and the Austrians.

Er, wrong. Actually, Great Britain does possess a brilliant teenage skier who could well reach the top. Her name is Sophie Ormond, she is 17 years old and ranked in the world's top ten for her age-group. By all accounts, she is extremely promising. She may be living proof that, biologically, there is still no reason why a Briton cannot be among the best skiers in the world.

That is what those close to the British Alpine team have said for years. Their argument is that skiing is a sport in which competitors are commonly separated by mere fractions of seconds: the difference, say, between one kind of ski and another, or between back-up staff who have enough time to study every twist and turn of a race course and those who do not. With better funding, they say, British skiers can make those fractions disappear.

Here, though, is the rub; because, as the striving to remove those fractions goes on, Ormond may be unwilling to remain British much longer. Ormond, you see, has a choice; although her parents are British, they have long

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lived on the Continent. She was born in Switzerland and resides near Annecy.

Her genes may be British, but she is, by her own admission, half French. Many of her mannerisms are English, but she speaks in French to her elder brother, James, who also skies for Britain and expects to continue doing so. Sophie is less sure. She has been nurtured by the French ski system since the age of nine and identifies that as the reason why she is as good as she is. She also knows that it can better help her to push for the highest summits.

"I have skied with Britain for the juniors and at the world championships and am grateful for what they have done," she said in Tignes, where she finished overall joint-second in the British Land British championships. "but I cannot get a sponsor and don't know how to go about it. I don't even feel there is anyone who can help me. I have been with them two years and have not found a sponsor in that time, so why should it happen now?

"I would like to go with Britain, but it would be much easier with the French. They have the coaches, the back-up staff and the training camps. Everything is the best and it is all paid for. With the French, I believe I can make it to the top. My French coach, Michel Boyer, has been really good about it. He just tells me to do the best for myself."

Doing that, though, will almost certainly mean Ormond taking up French citizenship. For the want of proper financial support, Britain's brightest talent for years will slip through the net.

BOXING

Brodie can aim high after defeat of Swain

BY SRIKUMAR SEN
BOXING CORRESPONDENT

MICHAEL BRODIE proved himself one of the most exciting prospects in Great Britain on Saturday. Brodie, 22, from Manchester, was only just beginning to come out of the six-round stage when he found himself facing Neil Swain, of Wales, the Commonwealth champion and one of the toughest men in the British super bantamweight division, at the Wythenshawe Forum.

Although Brodie has a punch to get himself out of trouble and is a gifted boxer, it was thought that the decision to go for the vacant British title might have been made too early. Even Jack Trickett, his manager, wanted to have a few more bouts before taking on Swain.

Sure enough, Brodie found himself in a brutal encounter that must be a contender for bout of the year. It ended in the tenth with Brodie pulling out a right that knocked out Swain. He was out for a good two minutes and ring officials were beginning to get concerned when he suddenly recovered. Brodie, too, received his share of lumps and bumps, and twice almost got into serious trouble.

Anyone without genuine potential would not have been able to withstand the violence that Swain unleashed on the youngster from the first bell and the unrelenting pace at which the bout was contested. Brodie is definitely one to watch. With judicious matchmaking and clever promotion, he could go all the way.

Trickett said: "That was a very hard fight that wants some getting over. I did not want to take it until he had had a couple of eight or ten-rounders first."

Trickett now expects Brodie to defend his British title, to try to win a Lonsdale Belt outright, and perhaps challenge for the European title if a suitable opening presents itself.

ATHLETICS: BRITISH DISTANCE RUNNER PREVENTS AFRICAN CLEAN SWEEP IN WORLD CROSS COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIPS

Radcliffe provides Europe with silver lining

FROM DAVID POWELL
ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT IN TURIN

AMID the customary African dominance of the world cross country championships, Paula Radcliffe, from Bedford, struck a small blow for Europe here yesterday when she took the silver medal in the senior women's race. Briefly, it looked as though Radcliffe would win, but Derartu Tulu, from Ethiopia, stole past her in the finishing sprint to regain the title lost last season when a shoe came off.

In four races, Radcliffe was the only athlete from outside Africa to win an individual medal. As you might expect from a young woman who strives for perfection in everything she does — she is a former junior world champion and, as a student, achieved four A-grade A levels and a first class degree — her first reaction was one of regret. "I was a little bit disappointed straightaway, because I thought I had it won." Radcliffe said.

However, the more she thought about it, the better she felt. Bearing in mind that she had not finished higher than eighteenth in three previous attempts, that no Briton had come as close since Liz McColgan in 1987, and that this is the most competitive women's foot race of all, it was an outstanding effort. Like McColgan, when Annette Sargent, of France, was champion, Radcliffe was only two seconds behind.

Radcliffe, 23, was well-positioned throughout and, with a kilometre of the 6,700 metres to run, was one of five in contention. The others were Tulu and her countrywoman, Gete Wami, the defending champion, Sally Barsosio, from Kenya, and Julia Vaquero, from Spain. Wami was first to break, but Radcliffe responded and hit the front 400 metres out.

However, with less than 100 metres to run, Tulu picked up her speed and Radcliffe, though she did not slow, was unable to raise hers. "I knew I had Wami beaten, but I did not realise Tulu was still there," Radcliffe said. Tulu recorded 20min 53sec, Radcliffe 20min 55sec and Wami 21min 00sec for third.

"You always think, after the race, that you might have been able to go a bit quicker, but I was going as hard as I could," Radcliffe said. "The standard is so high. I have to be pleased." It had been a good omen, after all, she concluded, that a pigeon had messed on her father's head just before the start.



Radcliffe strides towards her silver medal in Turin

Again, though, it is a story of a British arrow just outside the bullseye. Since Jonathan Edwards won his triple jump gold medal in Gothenburg in 1995, British athletes have taken 12 silver medals at global championships, but no gold. Perhaps Radcliffe can find the centre at 5,000 metres in Athens this summer. "This gives me something to build on," she said.

Her most notable achievement as a senior until yesterday was breaking Zola Budd's 5,000 metres British record and she is hopeful of improving it further. Eventually, she will move up to 10,000 metres, perhaps experimenting with one this year and racing over the distance at the 1998 Commonwealth Games, but she sees herself mainly as a 5,000 metres runner for a few years.

This was the first time since joining the senior ranks that she had enjoyed preparation unrestricted by illness or injury. Eight weeks' good training, a month at altitude and no racing for six weeks had brought her to the Parco del Valentino in formidable condition.

Behind Ethiopia and Kenya, Ireland, led by Catherina McKiernan in seventh place, took the team bronze medal. Britain were one runner short of a medal-winning squad. Lucy Elliott was eighteenth and Hayley Haining 22nd, but, without another top 50 runner, they had to settle for fourth.

Paul Tergat won his third successive senior men's title, leading Kenya to their twelfth consecutive team victory. Jon Brown, the leading Briton, was fourteenth and Glynn Tromans, on his British debut ten months after a second heart operation, 159th. Kenya swept the junior board, winning the men's and women's individual and team gold medals.

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EQUESTRIANISM: RECORD NUMBER OF ENTRIES RESTRICTS OVERSEAS RIDERS

Top horses ruled out of Badminton

BY JENNY MACARTHUR

SEVERAL of the world's top horses will miss the Badminton Horse Trials, the world's leading three-day event, in May, after an announcement yesterday that each overseas rider will be allowed to ride only one horse. British riders may ride two.

The ruling follows a record 151 entries for the event. Blyth Tait, of New Zealand, the Olympic champion, and Mark Todd, a dual Olympic gold medal-winner, are among leading riders who will have to choose which of their top horses to run.

Todd, who was competing at the Land-Rover Gatcombe Horse Trials yesterday, where he finished third on Kayem — one of his three Badminton entries — condemned the decision. "If the event wants to be the premier in the world, it should employ a ranking system like any other top sporting event," he said. "Wimbledon doesn't say that Boris Becker can't play because a British player ranked No 364 has to."

Tait, who will have to choose between Chesterfield, a team bronze medal-winner in Atlanta, and Aspyring, the runner-up at the Pratoni event in Italy last year, shared his view. "It will be disappointing for the general public at Badminton who expect to see the best available talent," he said. "Instead, they will be seeing the best riders with one horse — along with Samantha clippety-clop from up the road."



Todd: condemned move

Both riders are also concerned about the effect that the ruling will have on the world rider rankings, which allocates more points for a win at Badminton than other events. "It will give the Britons who are allowed two horses an unfair advantage," Tait, the leading rider last season, said.

Hugh Thomas, the director of Badminton, admitted that it was "very sad" that a number of qualified horses would be turned away, but said that, with a maximum of 80 starting places, it seemed the fairest decision. "For the future, we have obviously got to work out a different way of doing things," he said.

Meanwhile, Rodney Powell, the winner of Badminton in 1991, had little to complain about at Gatcombe yesterday. He won the advanced intermediate section after a superb performance on Flintstone, an eight-year-old. Powell, who decided to "go for it" on the cross country, collected just three time faults to finish on a score of 35.

Mary King, on King William, and Todd, on Kayem, both finished on 37, but King was awarded second place because she had more "good" marks in her dressage test.

Andrea Morris, a team gold medal-winner in the 1987 British junior team, had a slender win in the British Equestrian Insurers Brokers (BEIB) open intermediate section on The Fun Dun, a nippy little 15.1 hands mare. Morris now leads the BEIB horse trials series which culminates at Longleat in June.

RESULTS: Advanced Intermediate: 1, Flintstone (R Powell, GB) 35pts; 2, King William (M King, GB) 37; 3, Kayem (M Todd, NZ) 37. British Equestrian Insurers Brokers open Intermediate: 1, The Fun Dun (A Morris, GB) 28; 2, Perryfields George (L Law, GB) 29. 3, King Solomon (M King, GB) 30

SNOOKER

Morgan holds up Hendry

FROM PHIL YATES IN CO KILDARE

STEPHEN HENDRY surprisingly struggled to shake off Darren Morgan, the title-holder, in the opening session of the Benson and Hedges Irish Masters final at Goffs here yesterday as he established a slender 4-3 advantage.

Hendry, attempting to win his fifth event this season, and improve his already overwhelming record against Morgan to 14 victories from 15 meetings, threatened to dominate as he aggregated 265 points without reply in building a 3-0 lead.

Hendry, successful in ten consecutive finals since being edged 9-8 by Peter Ebdon in the climax to the 1995 Irish Masters, had runs of 116 — his 34th century break of the 1996-97 campaign — and 96 before Morgan dug in his heels.

Fortune smiled on Morgan in the fourth frame when Hendry, leading 30-0, went in-off after potting a red from distance. Morgan capitalised with an 82 clearance and then accounted for the fifth frame with a century break.

Hendry's hopes of lifting his 64th trophy were bolstered by contributions of 41 and 79, which paved the way for a 4-2 lead, but Morgan, whose greatest asset is a stubborn streak, remained in contention by comfortably prevailing in the closing frame of the afternoon.

That left Hendry requiring five of the ten frames scheduled last night to collect the £72,000 first prize and provide additional evidence that, with the Embassy world championship at Sheffield fast approaching, he is still the man to beat.

Hendry ensured his participation in the eightieth final of his 12-year professional career by defeating Ronnie O'Sullivan 6-2 in the semi-finals on Saturday, while Morgan unexpectedly overcame Ebdon, the winner of the Thailand Open last week, by the same score.

"That was a bit more like the real Stephen Hendry," Hendry, who constructed breaks of 71, 83, 81 and 91 in beating O'Sullivan, said. "That's the best I've played since I beat Ronnie [O'Sullivan] in the Liverpool Victoria Charity Challenge final in January."

Hendry, who has been seeded to meet O'Sullivan in the world championship quarter-finals, added: "Over the past couple of months, I haven't really met the standards I set myself, even though I have won a couple of tournaments. This was much more encouraging."

RESULTS: Quarter-final: D Morgan (Wales) bt J Parrott (Eng) 6-2. Semi-finals: S Hendry (Scot) bt R O'Sullivan (Eng) 6-2; Morgan bt P Ebdon (Eng) 6-2. Final: Hendry leads Morgan 4-3

FOOTBALL: GESTURE OF SOLIDARITY WITH DOCKWORKERS THAT SPARKED FURORE AFTER A FASHION

Getting shirty over a personal thing

STEVE McMANAMAN

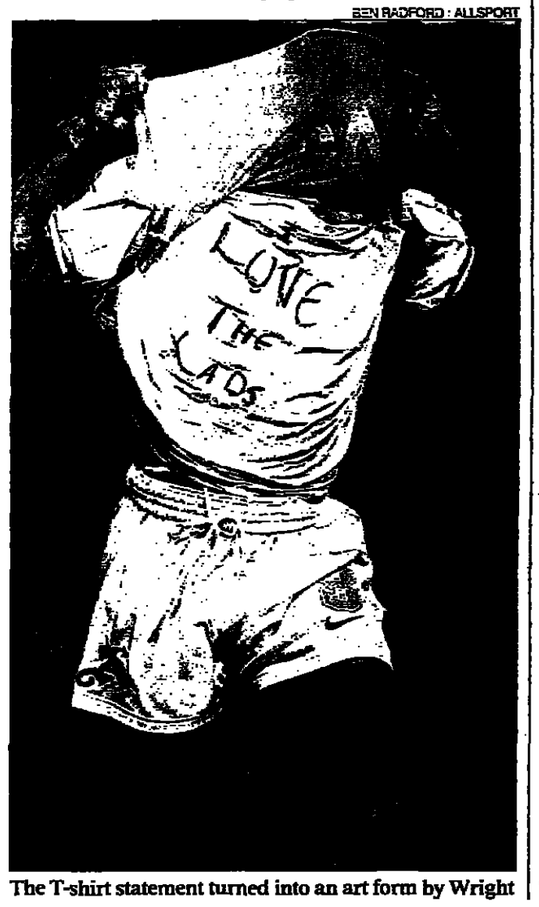


on how a simple idea was misread



Fowler displays the message that caused a fuss about nothing during the match with SK Brann at Anfield. Photograph: Marc Aspland

BEN RADFORD : ALLSPORT



The T-shirt statement turned into an art form by Wright

THE T-shirt I wore under my Liverpool jersey against SK Brann, of Norway, had a small logo saying "Support *the* sacked dockworkers". I explain this, because nobody actually knew what was on it despite the almost hysterical response after the match.

There have been suggestions in certain parts of the media that I and Robbie Fowler will face some sort of sanction for what was, apparently, a massive political statement. It was such a massive statement that the same people had to ask me after the game what the message was.

They didn't know, because they didn't see even when Robbie lifted his jersey after scoring. My T-shirt was only on display at the end of the match when I swapped shirts. Yet here we are now, getting all excited by it.

I was given the T-shirt by a friend of my dad's, who was one of the 500 workers sacked. They are on strike and have not had any wages for two years.

I thought I would wear it under my shirt, merely as a small statement of support for people, some of whom are *friends*, not as a grand gesture. It is not politics, I am not trying to change people's opinions.

I am concerned about the dockworkers; it is important to me because I know a lot of these people and I know what they have gone through. T-shirts have emerged in recent years as a way of making a statement; but essentially it is a fun thing.

It started out as a celebration — you score a goal and it is an extension of the delight you feel. Ravanelli has taken it a stage farther with his shirt-over-the-head trick and there have been some amusing variations.

There have been political comments before. In France, the national squad all wore anti-racism T-shirts and I can agree with that. If it is an important issue for everyone, then sure, go ahead and do it. But I still feel it is largely a humorous medium: a celebration of the art of the goalscorer.

I've worn T-shirts with comments on them before, just jokes really, and Robbie Fowler has had a few. If something is really important to you, if you feel really strongly, then I can see no harm in commenting on it. It can be an easy way of expressing your feelings, but really it is a personal thing. I wouldn't think that massive political issues are served well by being on a T-shirt.

'I am not trying to change people's opinions'

With the dockworkers, Robbie and I have offered personal support, but we are not arrogant enough to believe that by just wearing a T-shirt we are making a difference. All we wanted to do was to give the people we know who have not had any pay for a couple of years a bit of a lift.

I understand that some big-name pop stars are to stage a few concerts in Liverpool to support the dockworkers. Now that is a more tangible benefit that will perhaps offer support in a far more important manner. I am happy that people know how strongly I feel, but as I have stressed in this column before that it is not a moral crusade, just a personal point.

Some people have suggested we could set a trend now, but I don't think so. T-shirts are just an amusing aside and the messages are best done by people such as Ian Wright, who cracks me up. He is the one who has probably made it more popular than anybody else. Mind you, I think Paul Tait, of Birmingham City, perhaps had quite a bit to do with bringing it into the public consciousness — although not strictly in the best way.

I won't be wearing a slogan on my T-shirt this evening against Arsenal. *If I* score, then I don't think I will need any messages to express the way I am feeling, because this is a match that has taken on huge significance after Manchester United beat Everton on Saturday.

Really, we have to win what is, by any standards, a difficult game. Under any other circumstances, going to Arsenal and coming away with even a point would be regarded as an impressive result. Not now. We know we have to keep within touching distance of United and that means only a win will suffice tonight.

Such are the pressures at the top at this time of the season. We are not unduly worried by the game tonight, we know what we have to do and will go out to give it everything. But I do believe that we are not going to be given much assistance as we try to lift the championship and continue to pursue success in the European Cup Winners' Cup. It is ridiculous, but we face the prospect of playing four vital games in nine days. Four games that will define our season with barely a day's rest between them. Now where is the logic in that?

We play Everton and Manchester United in the league — traditionally Liverpool's two hardest games of the season — Paris Saint-Germain in the Cup Winners' Cup and then Coventry in the league. Apart from anything else, aren't we supposed to be ambassadors for the English game in Europe? How are we supposed to do English football justice with a programme like that? Yet, if we are beaten by the French, the inquests will start, there will be intense hand-wringing about how English football is lagging behind its continental rivals.

It is madness. We have to win all four of those games if we are going to pursue honours, but surely it is unrealistic to ask any team to do that without any recovery time. Every year it seems something like this happens and every year the talk is of resolving the problem. It is about time the talk is translated into action.

United give short shrift to tide of abuse

Everton 0
Manchester United 2

BY MICHAEL HENDERSON

THERE is a story, quite true, of a barrister who took his friend, the judge, to watch Manchester United play at Goodison Park. Embarrassed to hear sections of the crowd respond with abuse to the call of "Un-i-ted!", the barrister turned round to apologise, only to see the judge joining in. "What do you think you're doing?" he asked. "I've always loathed those red bastards," the judge said.

Nothing changes where United are concerned. After ten minutes of this strangely uninvolving match, the crowd encouraged people to stand up if they hated "the Mancs", and a few thousand did. After 20 minutes they invited Eric Cantona to go home, though not quite so politely. Five minutes from time some of the Great Unwashed began that ghastly "song" about the Munich air crash. It was a heart-warming afternoon all right.

Gosh, am *I being rude* about football supporters? Goodness gracious, they are the salt of the earth, are they not? If we are in any doubt,

Full results and league tables . Page 30

then a film based on Nick Hornby's grossly overpraised book, *Fever Pitch*, will shortly remind everybody just how much the game means to "real people". They would do better to go back to Arthur Hopcraft, who wrote a much better book 30 years ago and who never gave silly interviews passing himself off as an expert on fiction, even though he knew rather more about the subject.

Hatred: there is too much of it in English football, and most of it is directed at Manchester United, who have brought some distinction to the game recently and continue to emphasise its good points. For this, they are repaid with gross behaviour, and mockery.

When, for instance, Ferguson, the loutish Everton centre forward, caught May with a reckless elbow midway through the first half, flattening him in the process, the crowd booed May the next time he touched the ball. Is day night? Beckham, who was understandably vexed by this monstrous foul, had to endure the hooting of the crowd for the rest of the half.

It is all very well, as a billboard at Goodison proclaims, to "kick racism" out of football. Why stop there? There are other forms of intolerance, and they can be heard every Saturday all over England. To point this out, as John Arlott and others have done, is somehow not to play the game. People in football are surprised when those who take a broader view mention that this sort of thing simply does not happen elsewhere. The fact is, many football followers do not really love the game. They love their own side, and detest everybody else's.

Now, here are three reasons why United will retain the championship:

1. Peter Schmeichel. As Paul Gerrard was gifting United two goals, the Dane stood tall and proud: the best goalkeeper in the league.

2. Roy Keane. Even in a match as moderate as this, he stood out as United's important first line of defence. He is more than that, of course, but essentially he prevents the other lot playing as they would like. How Liverpool must wish that they had somebody like that.

3. The Frenchman. He did not do much on Saturday, but he is always good value and, by shaking the referee's hand after some minor disagreement, he made the Everton crowd howl even louder. A nice touch. For all the tosh written about him, he remains outstanding.

It was interesting to note the reactions of both scorers to their goals. Solskjaer, after turning Watson inside out on the edge on the box to score with a crisp left-footed shot that Gerrard should have stopped, regarded his with bewilderment, as though he had accomplished something that strained belief. Cantona, who gently volleyed the second when Gerrard hopelessly misjudged Beckham's cross, turned away as though he had completed a move of rare delight.

Everton's one recognisable ploy is to hoof the ball up to Ferguson as often as possible, and the higher the better. Ferguson is not, actually, all that good and, when Rideout trotted on for the second half, one wondered how such an unremarkable player can sustain a career for so long at this level. Barmby, all £5.75 million of him, looked quite out of it. Everton are a mess.

In Pallister's absence, May had a fine game at centre half and, though clobbered by Ferguson's elbow, he refused to buckle. Somehow he has made himself into a decent player, which reflects well upon his character, and also upon his manager's judgment. But we knew that bit already.

EVERTON (4-4-2): P Gerrard — E Barrett, D Watson, D Unsworth, T Phelan — C Thomson (sub: P Rideout, 45min), J Parkinson, N Barmby, G Speed — G Stuart, D Ferguson
MANCHESTER UNITED (4-4-2): P Schmeichel — D Irwin, D May, G Pallister (sub: R Johnsen, 38), P Neville — D Beckham (sub: B McClair, 81), N Butt, R Keane, R Giggs — E Cantona, O G Solskjaer
Referee: D Gallagher

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Hooligan sideshow mars honest spectacle

Blackburn Rovers 0
Aston Villa 2

BY RUSSELL KEMPSON

AS THE Aston Villa "supporter" showed off the blood on his new sweater — the result of a skirmish between rival supporters at Mill Hill station, a brisk stroll from Ewood Park — English football rediscovered its true perspective. Hooliganism is not dead, never has been, but has merely been bubbling away insidiously beneath the surface.

It has been admirably controlled for so long, no greater exemplified than during Euro 96, and credit is due to the controllers. Yet, while society's ills exist, the football match is still the vehicle for the mindless outpouring of tribal aggression.

Given the opportunity, not necessarily the motive, it will happen. On Saturday, on the afternoon that the Ellerslie Road stand at Queens Park Rangers became a battle ground, the incident at Mill Hill was relatively trivial. Villa had eased past Blackburn Rovers, with second-half goals from Johnson and Yorke, and the respective followers mingled passively on the platform.

A word out of place, though, a north-south jibe too far, and it went off. With not a representative of law and order in sight, the punching started. Only when the trains mercifully pulled out — one transporting the home supporters into Blackburn, the other taking the returning visitors en route to Birmingham — did the untutored kick-boxing subside.

Even then, insults were traded. Were it not for the premature self-preserving exit at Bamber Bridge of one gallant yet misguided Lancastrian, who had valiantly tried to stem the torrent of abuse from his tormentor, more blood could have been spilt on arrival in Preston. Had it ignited on the train — a grossly inadequate two-carriage conveyance, with men, women and children sardined together — the consequences are unfit to contemplate.

That the supporters of Blackburn and Villa do not have a history of skulduggery is all the more worrying. In mitigation, it was possibly a one-off, inevitably fuelled by a surfeit of alcohol and ultimately sparked by indiscreet regional antipathy.



Little: direct order

Yet the response of those concerned was scary. They wanted it, they were up for it, they enjoyed it, however brief. It had not been a controversial match, it had not been a passionate derby; it was no more than a regulation FA Carling Premiership encounter, with a deserved winner and an honourable loser.

It was not enough, though. The smug-faced warriors, thrown together by circumstance, desired more. A bit of extra-curricular activity and to hell with those innocently ensnared; an away game, an away win and a spot of "bovver". A great day out. Perfect.

Rovers v Villa, to the majority, was not a sideshow. It was not particular enjoyable, either, with Villa overcoming initial lethargy to enhance their prospects of a Uefa Cup place next season. It was their first away success in the league since December.

Brian Little, the Villa manager, conceded that he had ordered a more direct approach than usual. "We tried to work their centre backs, we tried to hit the strikers and hit the channels early," he said, in a rare lapse into manager-speak. "I don't really want us to be labelled as direct, I hate all that, but we did bypass the midfield more often than normal. If the passes are good, though, then it's OK."

Blackburn were handicapped by the loss of Sutton, who unwisely headed Ehiogu's head in only the second minute and was eventually carried off on a stretcher and taken to hospital with concussion. Pedersen, his replacement, lasted 50 minutes before retiring with an ankle injury, which only highlighted Blackburn's deficiencies. Punchless in attack, they were defensively lax, too — nobody picking up Johnson as he dispatched Wright's throughball and Hendry's poor backpass letting in Yorke.

Most spectators dispersed peacefully, whether disgruntled or joyous. Only the Mill Hill few, eyes bulging in obscene excitement, disgraced the occasion. The yob, the proud wearer of a blood-stained sweater, is back; he is real.

Not that he has ever been away.

BLACKBURN ROVERS (4-3-2-1): T Flowers — J Kenna, H Berg, C Hendry, G Le Saux — T Sherwood, W McKinlay, G Flitcroft (sub: L Bohinen, 70min) — K Gallacher, J Wilcox — C Sutton (sub: P Pedersen, 5; sub: G Donis, 56)
ASTON VILLA (3-5-2): M Bosnich — U Ehiogu, S Staunton, R Scimeca — F Nelson, M Draper, I Taylor, A Townsend, A Wright — S Milosevic (sub: T Johnson, 60), D Yorke
Referee: A Wilkie.

Thrilling Leeds rewrite Graham's boring script

Sheffield Wednesday 2
Leeds United 2

BY KEITH PIKE

SOME words do not sit happily together in the same sentence: Le Tissier and consistency, Brighton and stability, for instance. Others are strictly prohibited: Birmingham and Premiership; Blackburn and affection. But, if football's phrase-book were rewritten today, an appendix entitled "temporarily unbanned" might be needed to include Leeds United and entertainment, or George Graham and, well, entertainment.

Even Graham seemed taken aback by the verve and spontaneity with which Leeds had illuminated an already glorious spring afternoon at Hillsborough, at least for an hour. "*I didn't tell them to play like that,*" he protested. His reputation is at risk. Strong words may follow at Elland Road this week, along the lines of: "Crowd pleasers are all very well, but what about the points?" Leeds did not win, after all. Gosh, they even conceded a couple of goals.

But, like it or lump it — and so frequently it has been the latter — Graham's Leeds were a revelation. For once, the manager in the Armani suit had sent out a team not weighed down by a tactical straitjacket. The travelling supporters at the Leppings Lane end were delirious, staging a mass semi-naked, shirt-waving singsong at half-time. One seasoned observer even compared Leeds to Real Madrid, which might have been overstating the case, but it emphasised the magnitude of the culture shock. Leeds, the king of the clean sheets, and the country's least potent attacking force, were thrilling.

One afternoon of apparently unscripted vision will not prevent Graham from dismantling this team in the summer. Yeboah, Palmer, Deane, Rush and Wetherall are among those on their way out, or rumoured to be. On Saturday, though, Rush and Deane were instrumental figures in a fine all-round performance which keeps Leeds in with an outside chance of European qualification should those above them in the FA Carling Premiership stutter on the run-in.

On the ground where, last season, Leeds suffered a humiliating Waddle-inspired six-goal thrashing, Kelly and Dorigo overlapped at will, Sharpe raided from the left, and Bowyer and Rush moved into the gaps created by the unselfish running of Deane and Wallace.

Wednesday, among this season's most watchable teams, might have been overrun. Leeds led twice, Sharpe and Wallace converting two of the ten decent openings that they created in the first half, but Radebe left Hirst free to head Wednesday's first equaliser from a corner and Carbone's cleverness created another for Booth early in the second half. Wednesday might have won, Martyn saving from Hirst after the pass of the day from Carbone, but that would have been a travesty.

"It was a superb performance, the best since I arrived, but there were no special instructions," Graham, who was particularly pleased with Bowyer's contribution, said. How, though, did he explain it?

"There's no secret. Most managers, myself included, want committed players. I only want players who want to play for me. I have never told them just to go out and hit the ball long, I tell them to defend as a team and attack as a team. Last week I said the same and we had a nightmare first half at Tottenham, but today we were excellent."

Long may it continue.

SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY (4-4-2): K Pressman — I Nolan, D Walker, D Stefanovic, L Bradbee — G Whittingham, R Humphreys (sub: W Collins, 78min), B Carbone (sub: R Blinker, 88), M Pembridge — D Hirst, A Booth
LEEDS UNITED (4-4-2): N Martyn — G Kelly (sub: D Rush, L Radebe, L Bowyer, L Sharpe — R Wallace, S Deane.
Referee: P Danson.

YOUR HOME IS AT RISK IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON A MORTGAGE OR OTHER LOAN SECURED ON IT.

FOOTBALL: COLOMBIAN'S SUBLIME FREE KICK RESCUES POINT FOR IMPOVERISHED NEWCASTLE AT SELHURST PARK

Asprilla's artistry colours drab spectacle

Wimbledon 1
Newcastle United 1

BY ROB HUGHES
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

POVERTY comes in many disguises. In the FA Carling Premiership, Newcastle United, as rich as they come, and Wimbledon, who make silk purses out of sow's ears, are both suffering in the final furlong as they try to ensure the Uefa Cup place that they feel their season demands.

Wimbledon had won but once in 11 League matches; Newcastle were on the rebound from defeat in Monaco, where Sir John Hall, their club chairman and paymaster, had reportedly said that his players should be ashamed of themselves.

It showed, on both sides. Wimbledon, with a small squad and playing for the tenth time in 22 days, were weary. Newcastle, without Alan Shearer and Les Ferdinand, were shadows of the cavaliers who began the season under Kevin Keegan.

And yet there was one transcendental moment. It came from Faustino Asprilla, who equalised Oyvind Leonhardsen's first-half strike in the 52nd minute.

Newcastle had won a free kick just outside the penalty box, for a foul on Ginola. It was the position that Shearer so relishes; he would have smashed it with uncompromising British beef past the goalkeeper. Not so Asprilla.

After Elliott had feigned to take the kick, the Colombian sauntered towards the ball and then, caressing it, with just enough power, but almost radar-guided accuracy and swerve, to outwit goalkeeper Neil Sullivan. It was positively graceful; the arc with which Asprilla bent that ball into the Wimbledon net.

How the 7,000 Geordie fans applauded their imported hero, despite two subsequent failures to head a winner. They had little else to celebrate as the zest and the joy which Keegan had invested in this team was, again squashed at source by his successor as manager, Kenny Dalglish.

When a side defends as poorly as do Newcastle, it seems almost criminal to eschew the virtues of attack. Peter Beardsley had wanted to play, and expected to play. Barely an hour before kick-off he talked, with typical enthusiasm, of Newcastle winning the championship, though he acknowledged that that would entail winning every game.

And then, poor Peter was consigned to the bench. Newcastle were constrained in the 4-5-1 formation that represents the Dalglish method of trying to erase the defensive generosity he inherited. One wanted to shout that it goes against the very nature, that next summer — when, doubtless, Dalglish will wheel and deal a new balance — will be the time to make his mark.

As it was, Newcastle were moribund in the first half, and Wimbledon were poor. True, Ginola produced one long shot, which was flicked over the bar by Sullivan. True, Ginola was booed at every turn because Cunningham, booked for a late foul on the Frenchman, was outraged by the histrionics of his opponent.

However, few could argue when, in the 28th minute, Wimbledon scored their goal. It typified the inadequacy of the Newcastle defence, and the alertness that Leonhardsen brings at his best.

A free kick had been poorly cleared. Leonhardsen pumped the ball back in and, when Lee, often Newcastle's most committed player, was challenged by Harford, the ball went spinning to Leonhardsen. From 15 yards, the Norwegian swung his left foot at the ball and, thanks to a late dive from Hislop, the best the goalkeeper could do was help it, one-handed, into the far corner of his goal.

Both Ekoku and Gayle produced deft touches for such swift, counter-attacking strikers. Gayle, who might even be worthy of an England place given the extent of injuries to others, demonstrated one breathtaking aspect of his touch, hooking the ball gently over the shoulder of Elliott and moving round him to regather it before the defender knew which way to turn. Ekoku too, could turn defenders, indeed, with a flick of the hips, he eluded two of them before crossing the ball for Earle, whose late appearance in the box would have brought the match-winner had Peacock not headed clear from beneath the bar.

Peacock saved another opportunity, but then Peacock is Peacock, and he gave the ball away to Leonhardsen, whose instant pass offered Holdsworth, the substitute, a chance to claim an FA Cup semi-final place in the team. Holdsworth drove his shot strong and true, but Hislop stretched high to cling on to the ball ... and a draw was a fitting end to the affair.

WIMBLEDON (4-3-3): N Sullivan — K Cunningham, C Perry, D Blackwell, A Kimble — P Fear, R Earle, O Leonhardsen — E Ekoku, M Harford, (sub: D Holdsworth, 81min), M Gayle.
NEWCASTLE UNITED (4-5-1): S Hislop — S Watson, D Peacock, P Albert, R Elliott — K Gillespie, W Barton, R Lee, D Batty, D Ginola — F Asprilla.
Referee: S Lodge.

MARC ASPLAND



Asprilla elegantly curls a free kick over the leaping Wimbledon wall for the Newcastle equaliser in the second half of the Premiership encounter at Selhurst Park yesterday

Results and tables 30
Palace power 31
Scottish commentary 31

Redknapp delights in impact of timely arrivals

Coventry City 1
West Ham United 3

BY PAT GIBSON

HARRY REDKNAPP was at his wits' end. It was not just the fact that his West Ham United side could not score goals in the FA Carling Premiership, he could not even see them scoring on the training ground when they were playing against each other.

Then he spent £5.5 million on John Hartson and Paul Kitson, the goals started to come and 11 points from their past six games have not only lifted them out of the bottom three, but also suggested that they may not have to keep going through this sort of thing every season.

"It was an impossible situation," Redknapp said after Hartson, aided and abetted by Kitson, had scored two of the goals that enabled West Ham to put three points and plenty of troubled sky blue water between themselves and Coventry City, who may have gone to the brink once too often.

"I never said it publicly or even to the team," Redknapp said. "But I thought to myself, 'how can I win football matches when I haven't got the players who can score goals'. I knew we could not survive. Once these two arrived, it gave the rest of the players a lift and they started to believe that we could win some games."

Gordon Strachan, the Coventry manager, must wish it was all that simple. He thought he had the players capable of winning games, more than £20 million worth of them, but they are either not listening to what he tells them or, for some reason best known to themselves, choosing to ignore him.

They started well enough, Huckerby leading a series of lightning raids that resulted in Rieper, under pressure from Dublin, heading a Richardson cross into his own goal after eight minutes.

After that, however, they simply lost their way and Hartson and Kitson made them pay. In the 27th minute, Kitson deftly headed on Moncur's cross and Hartson steered it past Ogrizovic. Seven minutes later, Kitson again got a vital touch to allow Ferdinand to poke the ball in.

Then, four minutes into the second half, Kitson's shot rebounded to Hartson, who finished with a crisp shot.

COVENTRY CITY (3-5-2): S Ogrizovic — G Breen, D Dublin, R Shaw — P Telfer, G McAllister, K Richardson, P Williams, M Hall (sub: P Ndlovu, 51min) — N Whelan (sub: B Borrows, 68), D Huckerby.
WEST HAM UNITED (5-3-2): L Miklosko — T Breacker (sub: K Rowland, 33), S Potts, S Bilic, M Rieper, J Dicks — R Ferdinand (sub: I Dowie, 86), I Bishop (sub: H Portillo, 45), J Moncur — P Kitson, J Hartson.
Referee: M Reed.

Limping Le Tissier remains hopeful of another escape

Southampton 2
Leicester City 2

BY BRIAN GLANVILLE

IT IS tough at the bottom. Southampton and Leicester City scratched out a result on Saturday which did not please either manager very much. "Sloppy goals," Matthew Le Tissier called the two Southampton gave away. When the first went in after he had cleared from the line, he kicked a post in frustration.

Would he be fit to play for England against Mexico, given the painful foot and the groin injury? With typically honesty, he replied: "The way I feel at the moment, I couldn't do myself justice in an international."

After playing only half a game against Chelsea in midweek, Le Tissier stayed on the field for 90 minutes. It was the quicksilver little Israeli, Eyal Berkovic, who surprisingly came off, after 63 minutes. He had been the salient figure of the first half, his ball skills a delight, his passing often inspired. He set up Ostenstad for the low cross shot which put Southapton ahead in the 32nd minute.

The explanation for his substitution by Southampton's worried manager, Graeme Souness, was: "I just thought the game was passing him by. It was going over his head."

As for Le Tissier: "What we are scared off is that we're going to end up with a Paul Gascoigne situation." Meaning that Le Tissier, in England training, might exacerbate his injuries. Le Tissier himself admitted that by the end of a game his injuries stiffen up. "I struggle. I try to limp through."

Before anxiety set in after half-time, it was Southampton who played the football. Without a home win for three months, they took the game to Leicester. When the frustrated crowd shouted: "Have a shot!", they responded.

But after the interval, came the transformation. "We did better in the second half," Martin O'Neill, Leicester's manager, said. "A cynic would say we couldn't possibly do any worse. I was just pleased to get something out of it."

The powerful, promising Emile Heskey came to life. As O'Neill said: "When he declares himself fit, he plays." Heskey's attacking partner, Steve Claridge, became more threatening, too.

Both scored goals, of a sort. Stunningly for Southampton, the first one came just a couple of minutes into the second half. Parker took an inswinging left-wing corner, Izzet headed it, confusion followed. Claridge shot, Le Tissier blocked on the line, the ball went in off Heskey.

Another three minutes, however, and Southampton went ahead again from another confusing corner. Le Tissier took it from the right, van Gobbel, after a scramble, drove the ball in.

But Southampton had plainly lost the plot. When Heskey, from the right, tacked past Taylor, it took a desperate horizontal block by Neilsen to keep the ball out. Heskey, a few minutes later, made space for a shot which Taylor saved.

Then, after 72 minutes, the Southampton goal fell again. Van Gobbel seemed to have won the ball in a duel with Guppy out on the right wing but then lost it again. Guppy found Lennon who surged to the byline, cut the ball back, and it eventually went into the goal off Claridge.

"We've got to show more bottle", Souness said but Le Tissier, for one, has still not given up hope of a great escape.

"I have immense self-belief, and also draw upon the experience of past years when we've been in equally sticky situations and got out of them."

SOUTHAMPTON (4-4-2): M Taylor — U van Gobbel, R Dryden, A Neilsen, S Charlton — J Magilton, R Slater, E Berkovic (sub: M Evans, 63min), M Oakley — E Ostenstad (sub: S Basham, 75), M Le Tissier.
LEICESTER CITY (3-5-2): K Poole — P Kaamark (sub: J Watts, 79), S Walsh, M Elliott — M Izzet, N Lennon, G Parker (sub: J Lawrence, 81), S Guppy, S Grayson — E Heskey, S Claridge.
Referee: K Burge.

Waddle unable to break the mould

Sunderland 1
Nottingham Forest 1

BY RICHARD HOBSON

IT WAS sales time in the Sunderland club shop. Supporters rushed to the stack of discounted merchandise, failing to notice one new item on offer. There, in a corner, stood a row of T-shirts bearing a portrait of the local boy made good, above the words "True Colours". Chris Waddle was coming home.

Roker Park has changed little since Waddle spent some of the happiest days of his boyhood at the Fulwell End. What has evolved is the game. On Saturday, like those T-shirts, Waddle was stranded away from the centre of attention and lost in the chaos around him.

"In the second half we did not get the ball out to Chris often enough," Peter Reid, the manager, said afterwards. Football, like fashion, has its cycles and it was easy to recall the burning issue during Graham Taylor's period as England manager. Even at the age of 36, Waddle might be more effective in a free role rather than as an orthodox winger.

As Taylor had many times before him, Reid indicated that the option would be considered, but not with any great enthusiasm.

Sunderland have managed to stay out of the bottom three through lung power. They have jostled, harried and cajoled and woe betide any side, such as Manchester United, that underestimates them.

Waddle was signed to vary the tempo. Thus, he slouched pasty-faced along the left flank as if in need of an oxygen mask; but appearances can deceive, particularly where Waddle is concerned.

In the 83rd minute he switched to the right to produce his party-piece and it almost secured the victory that his side deserved. Dragging the ball along with his left foot, apparently harmlessly, he dropped his shoulder, accelerated between Roy and Pearce and shot narrowly wide.

Such moments of skill were all too rare on an afternoon full of anxiety. In the first half Bridges, a flowering talent, hit the bar and Van Hooijdonk squandered a good position at the opposite end, yet, when Ball met Waddle's corner with a thundering volley in the 61st minute, it appeared that Forest would struggle to recover. What a surprise, then, when Lyttle shot into the far corner four minutes from the end after Sunderland failed to clear a free kick from Pearce.

Despite the recent takeover, Forest, who face Middlesbrough today, are still a club with problems. It ill-befits a side crafted by Brian Clough to rely on high balls to Van Hooijdonk. Saunders badly needs a goal; Roy a firework up the backside. Woan, a peripheral influence here, but a good player on his day, is clearly unhappy.

There is confusion over the roles of Pearce, the caretaker-manager, and Bassett, the general manager. Who is in charge? Come May, Waddle might be grateful that his proposed move to the City Ground fell through.

SUNDERLAND (4-4-1-1): L Perez — G Hall, L Howey, R Ord, D Kubicki — M Gray, P Bracewell, K Ball, C Waddle — A Rae — M Bridges (sub: P Stewart, 73min).
NOTTINGHAM FOREST (4-4-2): M Crossley — D Lyttle, C Cooper, S Chettle, S Pearce — D Phillips, A I Haaland, S Gemmill, I Woan (sub: B Roy, 66) — D Saunders (sub: J Moore, 71), P Van Hooijdonk.
Referee: P Alcock.

Derby display will worthy of copying

Derby County 4
Tottenham Hotspur 2

BY DAVID MADDOCK

IT IS in Belgium, apparently, where scientists have accidentally cloned the first human. If that were north London, then it would be eminently more believable. Meet Tottenham Hotspur, the world's first football clones.

It is an interesting concept. Eleven Ruud Gullits or Bryan Robsons might win a trophy or two, but not the unidentified player Tottenham seemed to have cloned their team from. Eleven players, all skilful enough, adequate technically and probably nice lads to introduce to your mums. But passion? Spirit? Forget it.

Derby County, on the other hand, now here is a team to drive the cloners up the wall. They come in all shapes and sizes, there is technique (very sketchy) in patches and no obviously blinding talent. But send them out to run at a brick wall and they would do it willingly.

It was one of those Baseball Ground afternoons. Tottenham, for all their pretty skills and fancy patterns, were never going to win this FA Carling Premiership match on Saturday. Even when they almost bizarrely found themselves back all square at 2-2 just after the interval, there was never any suggestion that they would secure victory.

If they are going to clone success at Tottenham, they must hope it is not merely physical attributes that can be reproduced. Derby displayed some of the baser requirements in achieving a victory that goes some way to ensuring Premiership survival. They rolled up their sleeves and punched their weight.

If the scientists are able to clone managers in the future then they are unlikely to look like Jim Smith. The Derby manager, though, knows what this business is all about and he has identified the Baseball Ground as Derby's most potent weapon in their struggle against the cloying embrace of relegation.

Two wins from five remaining home games was the target he set before this match and he has got one now, thanks in large part to the emotion generated by one of the most intimidating crowds remaining in the new middle-class world of football.

The roar as Derby stepped up a gear to disperse thoughts of a Tottenham revival was intense. Sturridge was inspired on 68 minutes to beat two defenders and curl his shot past Walker, with the help of a deflection for the third goal. A minute later and the game was over with Ward, the substitute, stabbing home Dailly's knockdown.

It was the same story in the first half, a frightening intensity of noise willing goals for Van Der Laan, a volley, and a wonderful first for the club by Trollope.

Tottenham play pretty stuff that is at times effective, as goals from Rosenthal, the substitute, and a tap-in by Dozzell, after a good save by Taylor, testified. But when it mattered, Derby desired the win and Tottenham did not.

DERBY COUNTY (3-5-2): M Taylor — J Laws[illegible] P McGrath, C Dailly — L Carsley, R[illegible]an Laan, P Trollope (sub: D Powell, G[illegible] S Ackerman, C Powell — M Carbon (sub: A [illegible] 58), D Sturridge.
TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR (4-4-2): I Walker — D [illegible], J Scales, C Calderwood, S Carr[illegible] — S Carr, A Nielsen, J Dozzell, A [illegible], P Rosenthal (26), S Iverson, [illegible]
Referee: [illegible]

Juninho's ball skills too much for Chelsea

Middlesbrough 1
Chelsea 0

BY MARK HODKINSON

FOOTBALLERS of a certain vintage used to call it "car park football". It was an aphorism for that rare player who could play the game with a liberated heart, mind and feet. In literal terms, he would perform with the same joi de vivre on the pitch as he would, say, on the club car park.

Juninho is a car park footballer. His game is a celebration of the moment and is not encumbered by anything except the pleasure of playing, of running, of dancing across the grass. Schoolboy-sized, he is a little lad watching his older brother's pals booting the ball around on some waste land. Ten minutes before tea-time, they succumb to his pleas and let him join in — they do not want to hurt his feelings. Thereafter, the ball and Juninho are a blur and they can no longer take part in their own game. The next day they will fight among themselves to be in Juninho's team.

If Juninho had been raised in St Helens or Swindon rather than São Paulo, he would not be a car park footballer, and perhaps not a professional footballer at all. Coaches would have deemed his marvellous dribbling to be greedy and indulgent. He would have been trampled into the mud, told to attend another trial when he had put on a few stone in weight.

By a circuitous route, Juninho has arrived in the North East of England and, on Saturdays, at least, there is now a speck of beauty among Middlesbrough's pylons, cooling towers, chemical works and shopping precincts. This beauty stays with people all week, in the offices and factories. It sweetens their lives. In a recent supporter's poll, Juninho was voted Middlesbrough's best ever foreign player by a remarkable distance. He received 78 per cent of the votes, while Ravanelli and Emerson scored just 3 per cent and 2 per cent.

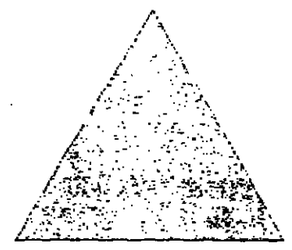
Chelsea, poor souls, found Juninho in irresistible form. They sometimes got close enough to clip his heel or bundle him to the turf, but Juninho was up again, ready to accept their apologies. This benign temperament and a general willingness to work for the team has consolidated the adoration.

Middlesbrough dominated from the start, but failed to score until eight minutes after half-time. Juninho threaded through the defence, passed to Beck and he crossed to the near post where Juninho gleefully headed home.

Chelsea, who had hitherto been lethargic and without imagination, pressed forward and the remainder of the match was joyously exciting, with chances made and missed.

However, the exhilaration of Juninho's day was matched by the wretchedness of Vialli's, who had made one of his infrequent full appearances. His control was poor, his shooting dire and he was plagued by the kind of ill luck that, on another day, would see him miss two buses and be run over by the third.

MIDDLESBROUGH (3-4-1-2): M Schwarzer — N Pearson, G Festa, C Fleming — N Cox, P Stamp (sub: A Moore, 25min; sub: S Vickers, 55), Emerson, C Blackmore — Juninho — M Beck, C Hignett.
CHELSEA (3-5-2): F Grodas — F Sinclair, S Clarke, E Johnsen (sub: M Hughes, 46) — D Petrescu (sub: P Parker, 76), C Burley, D Wise, R Di Matteo (sub: P Hughes, 76), S Minto — G Zola, G Vialli.
Referee: M Riley.

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pi.

And a beer to go with it.

Bass BEST SELLING PREMIUM CASK ALE SINCE 1777

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP

BLACKBURN (0) 0 **ASTON VILLA** (0) 2
24,274 Johnson 64, Yorke 79

Blackburn Rovers: T Flowers, J Kenna, T Sherwood, C Hendry, G Le Saux, R Gallacher, C Sutton (sub: P Pedersen, 5min, sub: G Dobie, 55min), J Wilcox, W McKinlay, H Berg, G Flitcroft (sub: L Bohinen, 70min)
Booked: Hendry
Aston Villa: M Bosnich, S Staunton, A Townsend, I Taylor, M Draper, S Milosevic (sub: T Johnson, 60min), D Yorke, A Wright, F Nielsen, U Ehiogu, R Scimeca.
Booked: Townsend, Wright.
Referee: A Wilkie.

COVENTRY (1) 1 **WEST HAM** (2) 3
Dublin 9 Hartson 27, 49
22,291 Ferdinand 34

Coventry City: S Ogrizovic, R Shaw, P Williams, M Hall (sub: P Ndlovu, 53min), G Breen, K Richardson, P Telfer, G McAllister, N Whelan (sub: D Borrows, 68min), D Dublin, D Huckerby
Booked: Telfer.
West Ham United: L Miklosko, T Breacker (sub: K Rowland, 30min), J Dicks, S Potts, S Bilic, M Rieper, R Ferdinand (sub: I Dowie, 87min), J Moncur, I Bishop (sub: H Portsno 45min), P Kitson, J Hartson.
Booked: Rieper, Hartson.
Referee: M Reed.

DERBY (2) 4 **TOTTENHAM** (1) 2
Van Der Laan 10 Rosenthal 29
Trollope 22 Dozzell 50
Stimidge 68 18,083
Ward 69

Derby County: M Taylor, C Powell, R van der Laan, D Stimidge, A Asanovic, P Trollope (sub: D Powell, 90min), J Lawrence, M Carbon (sub: A Ward, 56min), L Carsley, C Daily, P McGrath.
Booked: Stimidge, McGrath
Tottenham Hotspur: I Walker, D Austin, C Calderwood, A Nielsen, E Sheringham, J Dozzell, S Iversen, S Campbell, J Scales, S Carr, A Sinton (sub: R Rosenthal, 26min).
Booked: Austin.
Referee: S Dunn.

EVERTON (0) 0 **MAN UTD** (1) 2
40,079 Solskjaer 35
Cantona 79

Everton: P Gerrard, E Barrett, D Watson, D Unsworth, T Phelan, G Stuart, J Parkinson, C Thomsen (sub: P Rideout, 46min), G Speed, N Barmby, D Ferguson.
Booked: Ferguson.
Manchester United: P Schmeichel, D Irwin, D May, G Pallister (sub: R Johnsen, 39min), E Cantona, N Butt, D Beckham (sub: B McClair, 80min), R Giggs, P Neville, R Keane, O G Solskjaer
Booked: May.
Referee: D Gallagher.

MIDDLESBRO (0) 1 **CHELSEA** (0) 0
Juninho 53 29,811

Middlesbrough: M Schwarzer, N Cox, N Pearson, Emerson, M Beck, Juninho, C Fleming, C Blackmore, G Festa, P Stamp (sub: A Moore, 25min, S Vickers, 55min), C Hignett.
Booked: Festa.
Chelsea: F Grodas, D Petrescu (sub: P Parker, 76min), S Clarke, G Wall, D Wise, C Burley, R Di Matteo (sub: P Hughes, 76min), S Minto, E Johansen (sub: M Hughes, 46min), F Sinclair, G Zola.
Booked: Di Matteo, M Hughes.
Referee: M Riley.

SHEFF WED (1) 2 **LEEDS** (2) 2
Hirst 20 Sharpe 17
Booth 51 Wallace 21
30,373

Sheffield Wednesday: K Pressman, I Nolan, M Pembridge, D Walker, G Worthington, B Carbone (sub: R Blinker, 69min), D Hirst, A Booth, L Bregone, D Sibstorne, R Humphreys (sub: W Collins, 73min).
Booked: Humphreys, Sibstorne, Booth, Hirst, Collins.
Leeds United: N Martyn, G Kelly (sub: D Wetherall, 77min), A Dorigo, L Radebe, I Sharpe, R Wallace, I Rush, B Deane, L Beayer, G Halle, R Molenaar.
Booked: Rush
Referee: P Danson.

SOUTHAMPTON (1) 2 **LEICESTER** (0) 2
Ostenstad 32 Heskey 46
Van Gobbel 48 Claridge 70
15,044

Southampton: M Taylor, A Neilson, S Charlton, J Magilton, U van Gobbel, R Dryden, M Le Tissier, E Berkovic (sub: M Evans, 62min), E Ostenstad (sub: S Basham, 75min), M Oakley, R Slater.
Booked: Ostenstad.
Leicester City: K Poole, S Grayson, S Walsh, M Izzet, M Elliott, N Lennon, E Heskey, G Parker (sub: J Lawrence, 81min), S Claridge, P Kamsark (sub: J Watts, 78min), S Guppy.
Booked: Walsh.
Referee: K Burge.

SUNDERLAND (0) 1 **NOTTM F** (0) 1
Ball 61 Lyttle 86
22,120

Sunderland: L Perez, G Hall, D Kubicki, R Ord, L Howey, P Bracewell, K Ball, M Gray, A Rae, M Bridges (sub: P Stewart, 73min), C Waddle.
Nottingham Forest: M Crossley, D Lyttle, S Pearce, C Cooper, S Chettle, D Phillips, S Gemmill, D Saunders (sub: I Moore, 71min), I Wosn (sub: B Roy, 65min), P van Hooijdonk, A I Noalland.
Booked: Wosn.
Referee: P Alcock.

Yesterday

WIMBLEDON (1) 1 **NEWCASTLE** (0) 1
Leonhardsen 28 Asprilla 53
23,175

Wimbledon: N Sullivan, K Cunningham, A Kimble, D Blackwell, O Leonhardsen, R Earle, E Ekoku, M Gayle, C Perry, M Harford (sub: D Holdsworth, 62min), P Fear.
Booked: Cunningham, Fear.
Newcastle United: S Hislop, W Barton, D Batty, D Peacock, R Lee, F Asprilla, D Ginola, K Gillespie, S Watson, R Elliott, P Albert.
Booked: Ginola.
Referee: S Lodge.

THIS WEEK'S FOOTBALL

*Kick-off 7.30 unless stated. * denotes all-ticket match*

TODAY

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP: Arsenal v Liverpool (8.0); Middlesbrough v Nottingham Forest (7.45).

SPALDING CHALLENGE CUP: Semi-final, second leg: Kidderminster (2) v Farnborough (2) (7.45).

TOMORROW

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE: First division: Portsmouth v Reading (7.45). *Second division: Crewe v Bristol City*; Notts County v Bury (7.45); Rotherham v Gillingham (7.45); Wrexham v Brentford. Third division: Doncaster v Rochdale.

AUTO WINDSCREENS SHIELD: Northern area final, second leg: Stockport (0) v Carlisle (2).

VAUXHALL CONFERENCE: Altrincham v Hednesford (7.45); Kettering v Stevenage (7.45); Welling v Fusmen and Diamonds (7.45); Woking v Hayes (7.45). **Spalding Challenge Cup**: Semi-final second leg: Macclesfield (2) v Morecambe (0) (7.45).

FRIDAY

EUROPEAN UNDER-21 CHAMPIONSHIP: Qualifying group four: Scotland v Estonia (at Fortbaan Stadium, Stirling, 2.0). Group seven: Wales v Belgium (at Vetch Field, Swansea City AFC).

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE: First division: Barnsley v West Bromwich (7.45); Charlton v Huddersfield (3.0); Tranmere v Southend (7.45). Second division: Wrexham v Millwall (noon).

VAUXHALL CONFERENCE: Halifax v Southport (7.45).

SATURDAY

Kick-off 3.0 unless stated

INTERNATIONAL MATCH: England v Mexico (at Wembley Stadium, 6.0).

WORLD CUP: **European qualifying group four**: Scotland v Estonia (at Rugby Park, Kilmarnock). **Group seven**: Wales v Belgium (at Cardiff Arms Park, 7.0). **Group nine**: Northern Ireland v Portugal (at Windsor Park, Belfast).

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE: **First division**: Crystal Palace v Birmingham; *Oldham United v Queens Park Rangers*; Portsmouth v Bradford; Sheffield United v Reading; Stoke v Oldham; Swindon v Norwich. **Postponed**: Wolverhampton v Grimsby. **Second division**: Brentford v Bury; Bristol City v Gillingham; Burnley v Luton; Chesterfield v Blackpool; Peterborough v Bristol Rovers; Preston v Notts County; Southampton v Wycombe; Swansea v Shrewsbury; York v Plymouth. **Third division**: Barnet v Cambridge United; Carlisle v Doncaster; Chester v Brighton; Darlington v Hull; Exeter v Mansfield; Hartlepool v Colchester; Hereford v Fulham; Lincoln v Torquay; Northampton v Wigan; Rochdale v Swansea; Scunthorpe v Leyton Orient.

VAUXHALL CONFERENCE: Bath v Slough; Dover v Rushden and Diamonds; Farnborough v Altrincham; Gateshead v Bromsgrove; Hayes v Hednesford; Kettering v Northwich; Kidderminster v Morecambe; Stalybridge v Welling; Stevenage v Macclesfield; Telford v Woking.

SUNDAY

BELL'S SCOTTISH LEAGUE: **Second division**: Livingston v Hamilton.



Paul Ince, the Internazionale midfield player, launches an attack against Verona in their Italian League match which Inter won 2-1. Photograph: Carlo Fumagalli

OVERSEAS

ITALIAN LEAGUE: Atalanta 0 AC Milan 2; Fiorentina 1 Parma 0; Internazionale 2 Verona 1; Napoli 0 Juventus 0; Perugia 3 Cagliari 2; Piacenza 2 Sampdoria 2; Reggiana 3 Udinese 0, Vicenza 0 Lazio 2.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Juventus	25	13	10	2	34	15	49
Parma	25	12	7	6	27	20	43
Internazionale	25	10	11	4	35	25	41
Sampdoria	25	11	7	7	40	30	40
Bologna	24	11	5	8	36	30	38
Lazio	25	10	7	8	30	26	37
Milan	25	10	6	9	34	28	36
Roma	24	9	8	7	37	33	35
Atalanta	25	9	8	8	35	32	35
Fiorentina	25	8	10	7	33	28	34
Vicenza	25	9	7	9	35	32	34
Udinese	25	8	8	9	32	34	32
Napoli	25	7	11	7	28	32	32
Piacenza	25	5	12	8	22	30	27
Perugia	25	7	6	13	22	40	26
Cagliari	25	5	8	12	29	42	23
Reggiana	25	2	12	11	22	39	18
Verona	25	4	6	15	31	52	18

SPANISH LEAGUE: Celta Vigo 1 Real Sociedad 1; Betis 4 Oviedo 0; Barcelona 4 Sevilla 0; Valladolid 2 Logrones 1; Athletic Bilbao 2 Compostela 2; Extremadura 2 Tenerife 0; Real Madrid 2 Zaragoza 0; Deportivo La Coruña 2 Racing Santander 1; Hercules 1 Espanol 2.

GERMAN LEAGUE: Werder Bremen 0 MSV Duisburg 2; Fortuna Dusseldorf 0 VfB Stuttgart 4; Borussia Dortmund 0 Borussia Monchengladbach 3; SV Hamburg 2 VfL Bochum 2; 1860 Munich 2 Hansa Rostock 0; SC Freiburg 1 Bayer Leverkusen 2; Cologne C Sankt Pauli 1.

DUTCH LEAGUE: Groningen 2 NAC Breda 2; Fortuna Sittard 2 Sparta Rotterdam 1; PSV Eindhoven 0 Heerenveen 1; FC Volendam 2 Roda JC Kerkrade 1; Alkmaar 0 Feyenoord Rotterdam 2; FC Twente Enschede 3 Nijmegen 0.

PORTUGUESE LEAGUE: Sporting Lisbon 4 Vitoria Guimaraes 1; Boavista 0 FC Porto 2; Salgueiros 3 Braga 0; Chaves 1 Gil Vicente 1; Rio Ave 4 Belenenses 1; Leixia 0 Setubal 0; Espinho 0 Leca 2; Farense 1 Maritimo 3.

FRENCH LEAGUE: Nantes 1 Lille 0; Monaco 3 Bastia 1; Lyon 2 Le Havre 1; Lens 2 Auxerre 1; Nancy 1 Bordeaux 1; Cannes 1 Rennes 0; Guingamp 2 Strasbourg 1; Montpellier 2 Nice 1.

BELGIAN LEAGUE: Standard Liège 4 Verviers 3; RWD Molenbeek 0 Lommel 0; Genk 3 Anderlecht 2; Sint Truiden 0 Cercle Bruges 0; Lierse 1 Antwerp 0; Ekeren 2 FC Malines 2; Charleroi 3 Loteren 1.

COPA LIBERTADORES: Group one: Cerro Porteno (Para) 2 Oriente Petrolero (Bol) 1. Group two: Racing Club (Arg) 2 Nacional (Uru) 1. Group three: Minerven (Ven) 1 Universidad Catolica (Chile) 0. Group four: Gremio (Br) 2 Alianza (Peru) 0.

WORLD CUP: Asian zone: Group four: Nepal 1 Macao 1 (in Muscat, Oman).

NON-LEAGUE AND NATIONAL LEAGUES

UNIBOND

PREMIER DIVISION: Altrincham 2 Bamber Bridge 1; Barrow 2 Blyth Spartans 2; Boston 1 Knowsley 0; Gainsborough 1 Lancaster 1; Guiseley 2 Leek 0; Hyde 1 Emley 2; Runcorn 0 Frickley 0, Spennymoor 0 Accrington Stanley 0; Winsford 0 Chorley 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Leek Town	34	21	8	5	57	25	71
Barrow	38	20	9	9	63	40	69
Hyde Utd	34	17	13	4	78	37	64
Boston Utd	35	17	11	7	58	36	62
Marine	35	16	12	7	45	31	60
Guiseley	36	17	9	10	50	40	60
Bishop A'land	33	15	13	5	61	33	58
Emley	34	16	10	8	64	44	58
Blyth Spartans	34	16	8	10	52	37	56
Gainsborough	34	14	9	11	52	36	51
Chorley	36	14	8	16	57	53	50
Accrington S	36	13	10	13	58	62	49
Runcorn	32	10	13	9	44	47	43
Winsford Utd	37	10	12	15	43	49	42
Spennymoor	34	10	10	14	49	45	40
Knowsley	35	10	10	15	46	67	39
Frickley	33	10	7	16	48	64	37
Colwyn Bay	32	8	11	13	46	54	35
Lancaster	34	9	7	18	40	62	34
Bamber Bridge	33	8	5	20	44	78	29
Altrincham Town	35	5	12	18	38	71	27
Witton Alb	33	4	10	19	29	66	22
Buxton	31	2	9	20	22	66	15

FIRST DIVISION: Atherton L.R. 1 Matlock Town 3; Congleton 0 Bradford P A 1; Flixton 2 Gretna 3; Great Harwood 1 Eastwood Town 0, Harrogate Town Leigh 2; Lincoln United 0 Droylsden 1; Netherfield 1 Farsley Celtic 0; Whitley Bay 5 Warrington 1; Workington 2 Stocksbridge PS 2; Worksop 5 Curzon Ashton 0.

DR MARTENS

PREMIER DIVISION: Atherstone 0 Hastings 0; Baldock 1 Ashford 1; Chelmsford 3 Nuneaton 1; Cheltenham 3 Burton 3; Crawley 0 Gravesend and Northfleet 2; Grantham 0 Merthyr 2; Salisbury 2 Cambridge City 2; Stittingbourne 4 Halesowen 2; Sudbury 1 Newport AFC 1; Worcester 2 King's Lynn 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Grantham	33	20	9	4	58	30	69
Cheltenham	33	18	6	9	62	37	60
Gloucester City	33	18	6	9	66	42	60
Halesowen	34	17	8	9	66	44	59
Kings Lynn	33	16	9	11	52	51	56
Burton Albion	34	15	9	10	60	47	54
Worcester City	36	14	12	10	48	41	54
Gravesend & N	35	15	6	14	57	58	51
Sudbury Tn	30	15	5	10	60	45	50
Merthyr	34	14	8	12	56	46	50
Nuneaton	33	14	8	11	46	40	50
Stittingbourne	33	13	7	13	63	56	46
Salisbury	30	11	11	8	43	43	44
Atherstone	34	10	12	12	36	41	42
Dorchester	30	12	5	13	48	45	41
Crawley Town	32	8	7	17	38	57	31
Ashford Town	31	8	13	12	34	50	31
Baldock Tn	34	8	7	19	39	74	31
Cambridge C	32	7	9	16	41	53	30
Newport AFC	34	7	9	18	34	55	30
Hastings	31	5	13	13	33	51	28
Chelmsford	33	5	10	18	38	59	25

MIDLAND DIVISION: Bedworth 2 Shepshed Dynamo 0; Corby 0 Solihull Boro 1; Dudley Town 0 Sutton Coldfield Town 0; Evesham 1 Raunds 2; Hinckley Town 1 Redditch 2; Moor Green 1 Bilston 1; Paget 1 Ilkeston 2, R C Warwick 2 Stafford 1; Stourbridge 0 Grantham 4; Tamworth 0 V.S.Rugby 0.

Southern division: Cinderford 0 Weymouth 5; Cirencester 2 Trowbridge 0; Clevedon 1 Tonbridge Angels 1; Dartford 1 Fareham 2; Fisher 4 Buckingham Town 2; Fleet 4 Yate 3; Hevant 1 Weston-super-Mare 1; Newport (IoW) 3 Erith and Belvedere 3; St Leonards 4 Bashley 3; Waterlooville 0 Margate 1; Witney 2 Forest Green 3. Yesterday: Buckingham Town 0 St Leonards 0.

ESSEX SENIOR LEAGUE: Premier division: Brentwood 2 Saffron Walden 0; Burnham Ramblers 0 Ford United 2; Essi Ham 0 Stansted 2, Great Wakering 6 Bowers 1; Hullbridge Sports 2 Basildon 1; Ilford 0 Sawbridgeworth 1; Southend Manor 0 Eton Manor 0.

ICIS

PREMIER DIVISION: Bishop's Stortford 2 Sutton United 5; Boreham Wood 3 Staines 0; Bromley 1 Grays 2; Carshalton 1 Kingstonian 3; Chertsey 0 St Albans 5, Hendon 2 Harrow 1; Oxford City 1 Dulwich 1; Yeading 1 Purfleet 1; Yeovil 3 Aylesbury 2.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Yeovil	31	23	5	3	57	25	74
Enfield	31	22	7	2	70	22	73
Purfleet	34	15	9	10	53	46	54
Yeading	31	14	11	6	48	31	53
Sutton Utd	29	13	10	5	64	49	49
Oxford City	31	13	8	10	56	52	47
St Albans	31	13	7	11	54	46	46
Dulwich	33	12	10	11	49	46	46
Heybridge	31	12	9	10	47	51	45
Dag & Red	28	12	8	8	38	25	44
Aylesbury	30	12	8	10	39	39	44
Carshalton	34	12	8	14	45	48	44
Kingstonian	34	12	6	16	64	69	42
Hitchin	33	12	5	16	51	55	41
Boreham W	29	11	7	11	41	39	40
Bromley	31	10	8	15	51	53	38
Harrow B	33	8	11	14	45	53	35
Bishop's St'ford	32	9	7	16	33	52	34
Hendon	32	7	11	14	38	50	32
Staines	32	8	6	18	38	54	30
Grays	30	6	6	18	30	55	24
Chertsey Town	34	6	5	23	31	82	23

FIRST DIVISION: Abingdon Town 1 Tooting and Mitcham 0; Barton 0 Aldershot Town 0; Billericay 0 Bognor Regis 0; *Chesham 0 Whyteleafe 1; Croydon 1 Berkhamsted 0*; Maidenhead United 1 Worthing 3; Merlow 1 Basingstoke 0; Molesey 3 Thame 2; Uxbridge 2 Leyton Pennant 2; Walton and Hersham 1 Hampton 0; Wokingham 1 Canvey Island 2. **Second division**: Bracknell 3 Dorking 2; Chalfont St Peter 0 Barking 1; Cheshunt 0 Horsham 2; Collier Row and Romford 1 Wembley 0; Edgware 1 Tilbury 0; Hungerford 3 Hemel Hempstead 0; Leatherhead 0 Bedford Town 2; Ware 1 Egham 2; Windsor and Eton 2 Metropolitan Police 2; Witham 0 Leighton 0. **Third division**: Braintree 1 Northwood 0; Clapton 0 Harlow 2; Epsom and Ewell 2 Camberley 3; Hornchurch 1 East Thurrock 1; Kingsbury 0 Flackwell Heath 2; Lewes 1 Tring 1; Southall 1 Wealdstone 1; Wingate and Finchley 1 Aveley 1.

FA TROPHY

FOURTH ROUND: Bishop Auckland 0 Gloucester 0; Dag and Red 1 Ashton United 0; Heybridge Swifts 0 Woking 1; Stevenage 2 Colwyn Bay 0.

MACKINLEY'S VASE

SEMI-FINALS, second leg: North Ferriby 1 Guisborough 1 (North Ferriby win 3-1 on agg); Whitby 1 Banstead Ath 1 (Whitby win 2-1 on agg).

LONDON SPARTAN LEAGUE: Premier division: Baringsside 2 Hillingdon Boro 2; Croydon 9 Hanwell 1; Harefield 1 Brook House 1; Ruislip Manor 7 Amersham 0; St Margaretsbury 0 Woodford 4. **League Cups**: Quarter-final, second leg: Coolhoters 5 Erimsdown 1 (Coolhoters win 8-3 on agg).

COURAGE COMBINED COUNTIES: Premier division: Ash 1 Feltham 1; Bedfont 6 Mersham 0; Corinthian Casuals 1 Farnham 4; Cove 1 Cobham 5; Hartley Wintney 6 Walton Casuals 2; Raynes Park Vale 3 Dorking 1; Reading 1 Netherne 1; Sandhurst 1 Chipstead 5; Viking Sports 2 Godalming and Guildford 2, Westfield 1 Ashford 1.

MINERVA SOUTH MIDLANDS: Premier division: Arlesey 1 Potters Bar 0; Biggleswade 2 London Colney 3; Brache Sparta 3 Royston 1, Harpenden 0 Bedford 1; Langford 2 Haddesdon 0, Letchworth 0 Toddington 3.

SCREWFIX DIRECT LEAGUE: Premier division: Bideford 1 Chippenham 5; Brislington 1 Westbury 0; Odd Down 0 Bristol Manor Farm 1; Paulton 2 Backwell 0; Taunton 1 Bridport 1; Torrington 0 Tiverton 2.

JEWSON EASTERN COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Bury Town 4 Felixstowe P and T 0; Diss 0 Newmarket 1; Fakenham 3 Woodbridge 0; Great Yarmouth 1 Warboys 1; Hadleigh 4 March 3; Halstead 0 Gorleston 2, Lowestoft 0 Harwich and Parkeston 3, Soham 2 Sudbury Wanderers 2, Stowmarket 2 Clacton 1, Wisbech 4 Tiptree 1, Wroxham 0 Sudbury Town Res 0.

JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE: First division: Lymington 4 Whitchurch 0; Andover 5 East Cowes 1; B.A.T. 0 Gosport 2; Bemerton Heath Harl 4 Petersfield 1; Bournemouth 0 Romsey 0; Christchurch 2 Totton 1; Cowes Sports 0 Aerostructures 0; Eastleigh 3 Downton 1; Portsmouth R.N. 3 Ryde Sports 4; Wimborne town 5 Brockenhurst 1

UNIJET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE: First division: Eastbourne Town 4 Pagham 1; Hailsham 6 Arundel 2; Hassocks 0 Mile Oak 0; Horsham Y M C A 1 Langney Sports 1; Portfield 3 Oakwood 2; Ringmer 3 Shoreham 2; Saltdean 1 Three Bridges 1; Selsey 0 Whitehawk 1; Southwick 0 Burgess Hill 3; Wick 0 Peacehaven and Telscombe 3

WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE: First division: Faversham 1 Beckenham 0; Furness 0 Thamesmead 1; Greenwich 1 Canterbury 1; Hythe 0 Folkestone Invicta 1; Lordswood 2 Corinthian 1; Ramsgate 1 *Chatham 2; Tunbridge Wells 0 Whitstable 2*

HELLENIC LEAGUE: Premier division: Banbury 1 Endsleigh 2; Bicester 0 Wantage 2; Brackley 2 Abingdon United 0; Burnham 1 Almondsbury 1; Didcot 3 Fairford 2; Highworth 3 Carterton 1; Shortwood 1 Kintbury 1; Turkey 1 Swindon Supermarine 2.

UHLSPORT UNITED COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Boston 0 Kempston 1; Cogenhoe 1 Long Buckby 2; Holbeach 2 Ford Sports 4; M.Blackstone 2 Wellingborough 1; Newport Pagnell 1 Eynesbury 2; Potton 0 Wootton 0; Spalding 2 N.Spencer 0; S and L Corby 3 Bourne 1. *Cup: Semi-final: Desborough 2 Stotfold 1.*

INTERLINK EXPRESS ALLIANCE: Barwell 3 Blaxwich 0; Blakenall 0 Oldbury 0; Boldmere St Michaels 1 Pelsall Villa 2; Chasetown 1 Hinckley Athletic 2; Halesowen Harriers 0 Rushall Olympic 0; Rocester 2 Pershore 1; Sandwell 6 Bridgnorth 1; Shifnal 2 Willenhall 0; Stapenhill 1 Knypersley 1; Stratford 0 West Midlands Police 1.

ENDSLEIGH INSURANCE MIDLAND COMBINATION: Premier division: Bilston Community College 1 David Lloyd AFC 3; Bolehall Swifts 3 Highgate 2; Knowle 0 Handsworth Timbers 1; Richmond Swifts 4 *Kenilworth 1; Shirley 1 Massey Ferguson 1*; Studley Bld 0 Coleshill 2; Wellesbourne 1 Alvechurch 0; West Midland Fire Service 0 Worcester 2.

BANKS'S BREWERY LEAGUE: Premier division: Bloxwich 5 Cradley 0; Brierley Hill 3 Gornal 2; Darlaston 2 Walsall Wood 0; Ettingshall Rt 2 Sitourport 8; Lye 1 Wolverhampton Casuals 2; Malvern 1 Hill Top 0; Stafford 0 Wednesfield 0; Westfields 0 Tividale 1.

NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Atherton Collieries 3 Eastwood Hanley 0; Blackpool Rovers 2 Glossop North End 0, Bootle 4 Salford 0; Holker Old Boys 1 Prescot cables 1; Kidsgrove 0 Vauxhall G M 4; Maine Road 0 Clitheroe 4; Mossley 2 Cheadle Hme 0; Nantwich Town 0 Burscough 0; Parkh 1 Rossendale 0; St Helens 1 Nantwich 1; Trafford 1 Darwen 1

NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE: Premier division: Armthorpe Welfare 0 Glasshoughton Welfare 0; Arnold 0 Thackley 1; Ashfield 1 Sheffield 4; Brigg 1 Dunelt Albion 1; Liversedge 0 Danaby 4; Maltby M.W. 2 Hucknall 2; Ossett Town 2 Hallam 2; Pickering 4 Hatfield Main 2; Pontefract Cols 2 Selby 0.

FEDERATION BREWERY NORTHERN LEAGUE: First division: Billingham Synthonia 5 Whickham 0; Consett 6 Stockton 0; Dunston Federation 0 Morpeth 2; Durham 3 Shildon 1; Easington 3 Sedgefield 2; R.T.M. Newcastle 1 South Shields 3; Tow Law 1 Murton 0; West Auckland 0 Crook 9.

SOUTH EAST COUNTIES: First division: Arsenal 5 Southend 0; Fulham 4 Cambridge 1; Ipswich 3 Charlton 3, Millwall 1 West Ham 1; Portsmouth 1 Norwich 4; Queens Park Rangers 3 Chelsea 3; Tottenham 2 Gillingham 0, Watford 2 Leyton Orient 1. **Second division**: Barnet 1 Luton 1; Bournemouth 0 Southampton 0, Brentford 1 Reading 1; Brighton 1 Colchester 1; Bristol City 1 Bristol Rovers 1; Crystal Palace 5 Swindon 1; Wimbledon 2 Oxford 0; Wycombe 0 Tottenham 0.

SOUTHERN AMATEUR LEAGUE: Senior first division: Crouch End Vampires 0, O Actonians 0; East Barnet OG 0 South Bank 2; Nat West Bank 3 Polytechnic 1; *Norsemen 1 Civil Service 1*; O Esthamelans 2 West Wickham 2.

SOUTHERN OLYMPIAN LEAGUE: Senior one: Albanian 3 Ulysses 0; Parkfield 0 Nottsborough 2; Wandsworth Borough 5 Southgate County 3; Wilton 2 Hale End Athletic 0

OLD BOYS' LEAGUE: Premier division: Cardinal Manning OB 6 Clapham OX 1, Glyn OB 2 O Ignatians 2; Latymer OB 7 O Meadonians 2; O Aloysians 3 O Kingsburians 2; O Vaughanians 2 O Hamptonians 0.

ARTHURIAN LEAGUE: Premier division: Cholmeleians 2 Wideians 1; Etonians 3 Chigwellians 2.

FA WOMEN'S PREMIER LEAGUE: National division: Ilkeston Town 0 Arsenal 3; Southampton 1 Doncaster 4; Wembley 0 Croydon 3. **League Cup**: Final: Millwall 2 Everton 1 (at Barnet FC).

FA WOMEN'S LEAGUE: Northern division: Aston Villa 3 Stourport 0; Garswood St Helens 1 Bradford City 2. Southern division: Brighton and Hove 3 Langford 0; Oxford 1 Wimbledon 7; Three Bridges 0 Berkhamstead 2.

NATIONAL

GILBERT LEAGUE OF WALES: Aberystwyth 2 Rhyl 1; Bangor City 4 Welshpool 0; Barry 2 Cornish's Quay 0; Cwmbran 1 Caernarfon 1; Ebbw Vale 0 Carmarthen 0; Holywell 3 Briton Ferry 1; Llansantffraid 0 Porthmadog 2; Newtown 0 Inter Cable-Tel 1; Ton Pentre 2 Caersws 2.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Barry Town	30	24	5	1	95	21	77
Inter Cable-Tel	31	20	5	6	82	24	65
Conwy	34	19	8	7	59	29	65
Caernarfon T	31	19	7	5	65	48	64
Ebbw Vale	31	18	6	7	66	31	60
Newtown	31	18	4	9	57	32	58
Cwmbran	32	17	6	9	58	45	57
Porthmadog	32	15	7	10	50	41	52
Llansantffraid	30	14	9	7	53	43	51
Bangor City	31	15	5	11	57	38	50
Connah's Quay	34	14	7	13	52	54	49
Caersws Bay	32	8	10	14	46	58	34
Carmarthen T	34	9	7	18	36	71	34
Ton Pentre	31	10	2	19	44	60	32
Caersws	31	8	6	17	40	67	30
Flint Town	30	8	5	17	37	56	29
Aberystwyth	31	7	6	18	46	71	27
Welshpool	31	7	6	18	36	67	27
Rhyl	31	7	5	19	37	56	26
Holywell	29	5	7	17	35	60	22
Briton Ferry	31	5	1	25	31	91	16

PRESS & JOURNAL HIGHLAND LEAGUE: Buckie Thistle 3 Keith 4; Cove 1 Fraserburgh 3; Fort William 0 Peterhead 4; Huntly 5 Brora 0; Nairn County 0 Clachnacuddin 5

FAI HARP LAGER NATIONAL LEAGUE: Premier division: Derry City 0 Sligo Rovers 2; Bray 2 UCD 0; Home Farm 2 Bohemians 2.

SMIRNOFF IRISH LEAGUE: Premier division: Coleraine 1 Cliftonville 1; Crusaders 3 Linfield 0; Glentoran 2 Glenavon 1; Portadown 5 Ards 0. First division: Ballyclare 4 Larne 0; Bangor 3 Omagh 0; Distillery 0 Ballymena 1; Newry 1 Carrick 2.

POOLS CHECK

| | | |

FOOTBALL: THIRD WIN IN FIVE GAMES SINCE THE RETURN OF COPPELL HELPS TO SECURE FIFTH PLACE

McKenzie pounces to fuel Palace momentum

Oldham Athletic 0
Crystal Palace 1

BY PETER BALL

CRYSTAL Palace continued their impressive run of results under Steve Coppell at Boundary Park yesterday. Leon McKenzie's second goal in successive games brought them their third win in five games under Coppell, taking them up into fifth position.

With games in hand on all the teams above them except Barnsley, and six of their remaining nine games at home, they are handily placed, with the second automatic promotion place in their sights. Even the auspices are in their favour — this was only their second double over Oldham Athletic; the first was in 1989, when they won promotion under Coppell.

"You can't discount it," Ray Houghton, the Palace midfield player, said afterwards. "Bolton are already up, but then the next 11 teams are probably still in with a chance."

Never mind the quality, feel the width. As the league table suggests, Bolton are the outstanding team by some distance in the Nationwide League first division this season, but, short of some serious strengthening at back and front, where McGinlay has already been found wanting as a striker at the top level, their only realistic aim will be survival. The rest are much of a muchness. It sounds silly, but, in recent weeks, Manchester City have looked a better team than any of the teams above them, Bolton apart.

"I can't see there's much difference between top and bottom," Neil Warnock, the Oldham manager, said after the game, and few could argue. Certainly on this form it is hard to see Palace as realistic contenders.

Oldham looked what they are, a team struggling against relegation, battling desperately, but short of composure and confidence, especially in front of goal, where they wasted enough chances to have won two or three matches.

Despite a wonderful start, with a goal after two minutes, Palace were not much better, only the confidence of their run of results giving them a veneer that Oldham lacked.

With Hopkin suspended, Houghton came back in for a quiet return after his three months out, but Rodger was dynamic as the holding man in midfield; and both front pairs proved a constant handful for the Oldham defence, the 18-year-old McKenzie, the son of Clinton and nephew of Duke, proving as lethal in front of goal as they were in the ring.

How Warnock must have looked longingly at the Palace bench, with Shipperley and Freedman staying there until the hour, as McKenzie and Dyer were given first go. It worked inside two minutes, Dyer shrugging aside Hodgson to cross for McKenzie to put a free header past Kelly.

That, though, was Palace's best moment. "We lost the initiative after a terrific start," Coppell said, and they were fortunate not to lose more.

With Nash flapping at crosses, Oldham had the chances to win, but Barlow, McCarthy and Serrant missed the best of them, and Palace survived, leaving Oldham anchored in the relegation zone, and with Bolton and Barnsley lying in wait. "Don't write us off, not in this league," Warnock warned.

OLDHAM ATHLETIC (3-5-2): G Kelly — C Fleming, I Snodin, D Hodgson (sub: T Orlygsson, 46min) — D Beresford (sub A Ritchie, 85), R Graham (sub: L Duxbury, 46), L Richardson, P Richards, C Serrant — S McCarthy, S Barlow.
CRYSTAL PALACE (3-5-2): C Nash — A Linighan, A Roberts, M Edworthy — K Muscat, C Vear, S Rodger, R Houghton, D Gordon — B Dyer (sub: D Freedman, 63), L McKenzie (sub: N Shipperley, 63).
Referee: R Humanitz.


BEN RADFORD / ALLSPORT
Rodger, of Crystal Palace, is sent tumbling by Orlygsson, the Oldham substitute, at Boundary Park yesterday

Home pride sustains Rovers

Bristol Rovers 1
Preston North End 0

BY RUSSELL KEMPSON

BRISTOL Rovers were afforded a warm reception as they ran out on to the Memorial Ground yesterday. "C'mon Gas," the public address announcer bellowed, using the colloquial term of affection. "Come on Rovers, pride of the West Country. Let's do it!" And so they did.

While "pride of the West Country" was a shade strong, a touch of blinkered blue-and-white optimism, Rovers were good value for their victory. It ended a sequence of four successive defeats and gives them a six-point cushion from the horrors lurking below in the Nationwide League second division basement.

"You saw a lot of passion out there today and that's what you'll see from us now on, win or lose," Ian Holloway, the Rovers player-manager, said. "We rolled our sleeves up and had a right go. There were no boys out there, only men."

That Preston North End — hovering in mid-table, going nowhere — appeared patently disinterested, at least until they went behind, also helped the Rovers cause. When the Preston players' pay packets are made up, Gary Peter, the manager, should perhaps consider a disciplinary deduction.

Apart from Gregan, in midfield, and Moyes and Wilcox, at the back, Preston were poor. It was as if they were already contemplating the summer break, safe in the knowledge that the promotion or relegation issues do not concern them.

Even Moyes contrived to head over what should have been the equaliser, with five minutes left, from Ashcroft's inviting cross. Before his gargantuan gaffe, Moyes had held together the Preston defence, with Wilcox, against the constant aerial threat of Beadle and Alsop.

Rovers' twin strikeforce may lack refinement, but the pair make up for it in height, heart and wholesome work rate. When Beadle's about, the opposition usually knows it.

Though too often favouring his left foot, he continually bustles and bundles his way around the pitch, Alsop, plying his trade at Halesowen only six weeks ago, is a mirror image, all energy and enthusiasm. When the rough edges have been honed, he could prove quite a capture at £15,000.

Cureton, an impish, will-o'-the-wisp winger, complements the pair perfectly. He antagonises his markers into errors by persistent running and has a nose for the half-chance, too. Only seconds after the restart Rovers, having huffed and puffed unsuccessfully in a drab first half, he made the breakthrough.

Beadle beavered away on the left before lashing over a swirling cross that neither Moyes, Wilcox nor O'Hanlon, the Preston goalkeeper, were able to deal with. So Cureton nipped in to toe-poke home his tenth goal of the season.

Preston responded belatedly. One of their less orthodox efforts was O'Hanlon's wind-assisted clearance that bounced once before nestling on a stanchion on top of the net. Rovers survived and, for a day at least, could claim to be the pride of the West Country.

BRISTOL ROVERS (4-4-2): A Collett — D Pritchard, T White, A Tillson, M Lockwood — J Cureton, I Holloway, J Skinner, T Ramasut — J Alsop, P Beadle.
PRESTON NORTH END (4-4-2): K O'Hanlon — K Gage (sub: K Kilbane, 79min), D Moyes, R Wilcox, R Kidd — L Cartwright, S Gregan, I Bryson, L Ashcroft — K Nogan, D Reeves.
Referee: G Singh.

Cambridge try wide-ranging possibilities

David Miller believes a change of style may yet bear fruit at the Abbey Stadium

Times have changed at the Abbey Stadium. Nowadays you can often see the ball. In the not-so-distant promotion years under John Beck, it was often out of sight above the roofline for those at the back of the grandstand.

The present Cambridge United team, inherited mid-season by Roy McFarland, tries to play football and succeeded to some degree in the 2-2 draw with Chester City on Saturday.

Ron Atkinson, the Coventry City director of football, was present to watch Micah Hyde, a midfield player with a touch of David Rocastle about him but needing a touch of Paul Ince to give him bite.

Thirty seconds from time it seemed that Hyde had made the winner, though by then Atkinson had left to be ahead of the crowd — all 3,044 of them. Frustratingly for Hyde, his perfect cross and an equally perfect header by Kyd on the near post were judged offside by the linesman. So Chester escaped with the draw that keeps them one place and one point ahead of Cambridge in the battle to maintain play-off positions in the Nationwide League third division.

I was level with the linesman and considered his decision a lottery hand-out in favour of Chester. To balance this misfortune for Cambridge, it must be said that the same linesman's flag had remained static when Wanless beat, though not legally, Chester's off-side trap for Barnwell to put his side two up after only seven minutes. Wanless had looked a good three yards clear when Taylor played the ball through.

Two months ago Cambridge were lying second in the table, but then came a slump of five defeats in seven matches. A side previously promotion-bound cannot be said to have consolidated under McFarland, yet the policy of regularly getting the ball out to the flanks may yet pay dividends over the remaining eight matches.

Someone unkindly remarked that Cambridge's quartered shirt design makes them look like automobile crash-test dummies, but in the first few minutes it was Chester who were suffering from impact.

In the fifth minute Ashby's acute drive from the left of the goalmouth into a crowd of players struck the unsighted Sinclair, the Chester goalkeeper, and flew into the net. Then came Wanless's moment of fortune, his initial shot rebounding to Barnwell, who scored easily.

Chester's response was swift. Within two minutes Alston crossed from the left, Flitcroft, from the other flank, headed back into the goalmouth and the veteran, Rimmer, scored from close range.

A seven-year-old home supporter was dismayed when queueing for his tea at half-time to learn that Rimmer has scored 141 goals for Chester, until it was explained that they had not all been this season.

Chester controlled much of the rest of the first half and it was due reward when Milner won a duel with Joseph on the edge of the penalty area and then lobbed over the advancing Barrett to level the scores.

Taylor struck a post straight from the kick-off in the second half and, 15 minutes from time, Flitcroft, with only Barrett to beat, squandered his chance to give Chester the winner.

CAMBRIDGE UNITED (4-4-2): S Barrett — P Raynor, J Craddock, M Joseph, C Vowden — I Ashby, P Wanless, M Hyde, A Hayes — J Taylor, J Barnwell (sub: M Kyd, 76min).
CHESTER CITY (4-4-2): R Sinclair — R Davidson, S Whelan, J Alsford, I Jenkins — D Flitcroft, S Reid, C Priest, S Alston — S Rimmer (sub: J Jones, 69), A Milner.
Referee: B Coddington.

Runaway leaders maintain the pace

Norwich City 0
Bolton Wanderers 1

BY NICK SZCZEPANIK

IT MUST be depressing for Nationwide League first division clubs to see Bolton Wanderers looming on their fixture list, and know that they can forget about those three vital points for another week.

It was the turn of Norwich City on Saturday, who needed a victory after slipping out of the play-off places the previous weekend. Surprisingly, there was optimism beforehand about the prospect of regaining lost ground at the expense of the runaway league leaders. There was even a bright opening, some neat inter-passing and one superbly incisive move as Fleck's pass gave Sutch a chance that he drove past the near post.

Bolton, though, were not to be denied for long. In the 24th minute Nathan Blake muscled his way on to a pass down the left, held the ball up and put it into the path of Scott Sellars who, in turn, put it into the far corner of Dunn's goal.

Although Norwich came close through O'Neill and Milligan in the second half, there was never much doubt from then on that Bolton would achieve their 24th victory of the campaign, their ninth away from home.

"Yes, it's a nice feeling," Keith Branagan, the Bolton goalkeeper, said. "I've got a good side in front of me; we are strong and can score goals from anywhere."

"They were very disciplined, and made it difficult," Mike Walker, the Norwich manager, said. "We deserved something out of it, and, against a lesser team than Bolton, we would have got something." It was, in all probability, the 24th time that a manager has said that this season.

NORWICH CITY (3-4-1-2): B Gunn — C Bradshaw, M Jackson, R Newman — N Adams, J Crook (sub: D Broughton, 87min), M Milligan, D Sutch — K O'Neill (sub: A Forbes, 72) — R Fleck, D Eadie.
BOLTON WANDERERS (4-4-2): K Branagan — S McAnespie, C Fairclough, G Taggart, J Phillips — J Pollock, P Frandsen, A Thompson, S Sellars — J McGinlay, N Blake.
Referee: W Burns.

Sympathy running out for tarnished hero of Ibrox

KEVIN McCARRA



Scottish commentary

Paul Gascoigne is nobody's pin-up any more. In illustrating a report on the fact that four out of ten women in the country are celibate, a newspaper even used a picture of the Rangers player, taken during his recent outing in Soho, to epitomise the shortcomings of the British male. It is not even clear if his club still fancy him.

The weekend's statement may have been read out by Mel Stein, his lawyer, but, in its rambling contrition, it was animated by the authentic voice of Gascoigne himself. It is one we had already heard far too often. He was responding to unflattering coverage of the excursion in Soho, during which he is alleged to have slapped a woman, and a subsequent trip to New York.

Repentance and defiance, as they so frequently have been, were uncomfortable companions in Gascoigne's account. Apologies for any offence that may have been caused were fired off to club and supporters, as well as to that lady whom he denies assaulting.

After all these years, he seems still to have no idea how peculiar it sounds when, simultaneously, he both seeks forgiveness and pleads innocence. There was also an attempt to make a grab for the public's heartstrings when Gascoigne professed that: "I live and breathe football and I live and breathe Rangers."

It is a symptom of a dwindling career that the England player now meets with jaded exasperation. In the wake of suggestions that Rangers are about to dispense with his troublesome services, Gascoigne's statement asserted that he would, in fact, remain until the end of his contract in 1998. Perhaps he will.

Gascoigne has been valuable to Rangers and, before his ankle injury in January, he had scored 17 goals this season. The Ibrox side look arid without him, as they did on Saturday in losing 2-1 to Kilmarnock at home.

Before Gascoigne can go, Walter Smith, the Rangers manager, needs to know who will replace him. If the club is to recoup most of the £4.3 million paid to Lazio in 1995, they must rehabilitate his reputation by getting him fit and restoring him to action.

Even then, Gascoigne, who will be 30 in May, is under no obligation to acquiesce in such schemes. Might he not continue to insist on seeing out his contract, ensuring that he is a free agent next year?

Gascoigne's statement was issued to Sunday newspapers because Smith had wished to protect the Kilmarnock fixture from any furore. As it was, his depleted side were lethargic and looked as if a jolt of controversy might have been helpful. They could have equalised in the last minute, when they were refused a blatant penalty, but Kilmarnock merited victory. The outcome was exhilarating for the visitors, who reduced the risk of relegation, but it left Rangers with only a flesh wound, since Celtic managed no more than a 2-2 draw at Dunfermline Athletic. The Ibrox club, with a seven-point lead, can still expect the championship.

Kilmarnock, though, extended a welcome invitation to look beyond this tawdry season. On their left wing, Alex Burke, 19, showed once again that he can combine flamboyance and technique, as he did with one drag-back that deceived Alex Cleland and led Craig Moore to barge him to the ground.

As he lay there, Alan McLaren petulantly threw the ball at him. While it was ugly behaviour, the irritability meant that Burke was also being tossed a compliment. The teenager's mere presence was a reminder that, before long, time will begin to strip even Gascoigne of his fame.

Heybridge's hopes end swiftly

Heybridge Swifts 0
Woking 1

BY WALTER GAMMIE

HEYBRIDGE Swifts, the Icis League club, stage-managed the day that drew 2,477, the biggest crowd seen at their Scraley Road ground, with considerable style. Unfortunately, the result failed to match the previous round, when they had beaten Kidderminster Harriers 3-0, as Woking, the FA Umbro Trophy winners in 1994 and 1995, reached the semi-finals.

Woking, of the Vauxhall Conference, secured their victory in the 67th minute when Heybridge failed to clear a low corner by Clive Walker. Kingsley Banks, the goalkeeper, could not gather the ball cleanly and Andy Ellis turned it home.

On the two occasions that Heybridge had a clear sight of goal, Wye cleared Caldon's effort off the line and Gregory blocked a shot by Caldon.

Kidderminster had a harrowing afternoon at Bower Fold, losing 4-1 to Stalybridge Celtic, while Macclesfield Town won their seventh successive league match, 3-0 at home to Gateshead, to gain a clear edge in the race for the conference.

HEYBRIDGE SWIFTS (4-4-2): K Banks — M Cranfield, M Keen, K Barr, A Vickers — A Ansah, K Game, M Sprogett, M Jones — G Caldon, S Harding (sub: W Adcock, 50min).
WOKING (3-4-1-2): J Gregory — K Brown, T Howard, S Foster — S Wye, S Thompson, A Ellis, R Taylor — S Steele — D Hay, C Walker.
Referee: G Willard.

☐ Paul Pitman's last-minute goal ensured Whitby Town a 1-1 draw over Banstead Athletic, a 2-1 aggregate victory and a passage to Wembley on May 10 for the FA Carlsberg Vase final. They will meet North Ferriby United, who drew 1-1 at home to Guisborough Town, to go with a 2-0 first leg away victory.



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RUGBY UNION: MANNER OF DEFEAT INFLICTED ON FRANCE STRENGTHENS CASE FOR EXPANDING FIVE NATIONS'

Emerging Italy hit champions for six

ROBERT PRATTA



Guidi, the replacement scrum half, feeds the Italy back line during a defeat of France that challenged the balance of power in European rugby

France	32
Italy	40

FROM DAVID HANDS
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT
IN GRENOBLE

TWO years ago Italy made a formal request that they should join the five nations' championship, making it into six, but were turned down. Last year they repeated the request, but were told by the five nations' committee that, perhaps, in two years the door would open for them. Here in the Lesdiguières stadium on Saturday, they swung the door back so violently on its hinges that each of the established five nations juddered at the impact.

There are all sorts of explanations for Italy achieving the victory that not one of the home unions could manage this season, most of them associated with the fact that, eight days earlier, France had won the grand slam for themselves.

How swiftly the rooster has become the feather duster, the French cockerel gaining only a modicum of respectability with two late tries that could make no difference to an historic result.

As the accompanying table shows, Italy's results this season place them higher than Ireland and Scotland in an unofficial six nations' tournament (they also have the effect of making England champions). Bear in mind, too, that only one of those games was played at home, though, if there is one foreign city heavily flavoured by an immigrant Italian population, it is Grenoble, nestling in the foothills of the Alps.

Yet that is not the whole story. Italy indicated clearly during the 1991 World Cup their level of improvement since the inaugural competition four years earlier. Since then they have brought the best from Australia (1994), beaten Ireland at home (1995) and defeated what was, in effect, the full Scotland side, even if it bore an A label, last year.

"We understand that we must prove ourselves to show that we deserve to play against the British sides," Giancarlo Dondi, the president of the Italian Rugby Federation, said. "We don't want to lower the standard of play in the five nations', nor do we want to appear arrogant, but, if we were to become part of the five nations', Italian rugby would go up a step and that might help the whole competition."

Victory over France offers the most convincing possible argument. There will be those who say that, capped international or not, this was far from the France first XV, with players from Brive, Bourgoin and Béziers away for club competitions. Yet eight of the starting XV appeared in the grand slam victory over Scotland a week earlier and not one of the remaining seven were newcomers.

The point at issue for the home unions is to balance the popularity and traditions of what they have with the good that they can do Italian rugby. British administrators may point to the crowd on Saturday — around 10,000 — and complain that the Italians will not be a commercial success, but this is a chicken-and-egg argument. Italy cannot be a draw until rugby crowds are given the chance to appreciate their qualities. The Irish received a hint in January and there were four tries in which to revel here.

The first, in a frantic opening period, was by Francescato and gave the Italians a lead that they conceded only during a brief period of the first half. They prospered, moreover, despite struggling initially in the scrums and suffering in the lineout, where only Croci offered a consistent challenge. Their success was founded firmly on a quite outstanding defence, in which all three back-row forwards excelled, while Gardner, the Australian, also produced his most effective attacking game for his adopted country.

Several France players looked as though they expected to win as of right, particularly when a penalty try put them on the scoreboard and when Bondouy scored the first of his two tries with a crisp break that carried France to 20-20 shortly after the interval.

Italy, though, never ceased to prey on French mistakes, to seize turn-overs and to move the ball adventurously wide. The try that convinced them that they could win owed its being to just that mood. It started with Vaccari fumbling at a loose ball ten metres from his own line, yet he whipped round, set off up the touchline and found his locks and support. Massimo Cuttitta chimed in, then Troncon was off and the balding Crochi cruised up to finish a wonderful movement.

REVISED TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
[illegible]							

RESULTS [illegible]

Dominguez, who missed only the first of his nine kicks at goal, embellished the lead with penalty goals and it stretched to 30 points when Pertile ran out of deep defence. Though the move appeared to founder ten metres short, Sadourny's relieving kick fell to Gardner, whose rampant charge took him through three defenders before an overhead pass sent Vaccari skudding to the posts. At that stage only six minutes remained and, though Sadourny, then Bondouy, found the tryline, time had run out for France.

Italy appreciate the need to build from below. In domestic terms, success at the Fira youth tournament would be of great value, though not as great as the improvement of their image that success over France engenders.

"If others are not certain about us, let them come and see for themselves," Dondi said. His union has an agreement with Tele Monte Carlo that, though it does not bring a fee, ensures that everyone can watch Italy internationals without any pay-per-view involvement. "We respect everyone else's views about us and we seek to be part of the five nations' on merit," he added.

Should there be any that still cavil at Italy's prospects, all their proponents now need to do is whisper "Grenoble" in their ear.

SCORERS: France: Tries: Bondouy (2), Sadourny, penalty try. Conversions: Aucagne (3). Penalty goals: Aucagne (2) Italy: Tries: Francescato, Gardner, Croci, Vaccari. Conversions: Dominguez (4). Penalty goals: Dominguez (4)

FRANCE: J-L Sadourny (Colomiers); S Ougier (Toulouse), Y Delaigue (Toulon), P Bondouy (Narbonne), P Saint-André (Montferrand); D Aucagne (Pau), G Accoceberry (Biegles-Bordeaux), M de Rougemont (Toulon), M Dalmasso (Agen), F Tournaire (Narbonne), P Bernadon (Agen); O Magne (Montferrand), H Miorin (Toulouse), A Costes (Montferrand), F Pelous (Dax, captain). Costes replaced by S Betsen (Biarritz, 58min); Dalmasso replaced by R Ibanez (Dax, 75)

ITALY: J Pertile (Rome); P Vaccari (Calvisano), S Bordon (Rovigo), I Francescato (Treviso), Marcello Cuttitta (Milan), D Dominguez (Milan), A Troncon (Treviso); Massimo Cuttitta (Milan), C Orlandi (Milan), F Properzi Curti (Milan), M Giovanelli (PUC, captain), C Croci (Treviso), W Cristofoletto (Treviso), A Sgorlon (Treviso), J Gardner (Treviso). Francescato replaced by F Mazzariol (Treviso, 25); G-L Guidi (Livorno) temporary replacement for Troncon (40-42)

Referee: D McHugh (Ireland)

Brilliance at sevens makes Fiji wonder of world

FROM ALISON KERVIN
IN HONG KONG

AFTER years of being recognised as the unofficial masters of the game, Fiji confirmed to a packed Hong Kong Stadium yesterday that they are the outstanding sevens team with a 24-21 victory over South Africa in the World Cup final.

Their triumph was marked with tears of joy, prayers on bended knee and fanfares around the stadium. Promises of national holidays to commemorate the occasion came flooding through from jubilant Fijian leaders and Waisale Serevi, the captain, was described on television and radio as the country's new god.

Fiji took the coveted title from England, the winners of the inaugural world sevens in Scotland four years ago, but this time round England idealed off the pace and decidedly second-rate as southern-hemisphere sides dominated the competition. Not one team from the northern hemisphere made it into the semi-finals.

England's dreams of retaining the title were shattered in the quarter-finals yesterday when Western Samoa ran rings round them. England looked tired and unimaginative as they struggled to get just one try in the 21-5 defeat.

It was a disappointing outing for British sides, but, after the five nations' championship and the most packed club season in rugby history, most had severely depleted teams.

"It has been extremely difficult for any northern-hemisphere sides to train for this tournament because of 15-a-side commitments," Andrew Harriman, the England manager, said. Indeed, it was Fiji who dominated the tournament from day one. They notched up cricket scores against the smaller teams, dispensing with Western Samoa in their semi-final before beating South Africa in style.

South Africa reached the final, beating New Zealand at the last-four stage, by playing disciplined, organised rugby more reminiscent of their World Cup-winnning XV. However, once faced with the athletic and creative Fijians in the final, they struggled to exert control. Despite taking an early lead when Venter went over twice, it was Fiji who dominated for two thirds of the game.

They replied through the talented Vunibaka, an unemployed labourer who was outstanding in the tournament, to trail by seven points at the break.

Fiji moved to 14-14 in the second half with an Erenavula try, before Koroi twice claimed tries to give Fiji an ultimately unassailable lead.

Stephen Brink, the speedy South Africa wing, scored minutes from time to make it 24-21, but Fiji were already celebrating their victory.

With Hong Kong teetering on the edge of its handover to China and the sevens' future in jeopardy, it seemed right that the Fiji team led by Serevi, the greatest exponent in the history of the sevens game, should be crowned world champions.



The jubilant Serevi is carried from the pitch

SCORERS: Fiji: Tries: Koroi (2), Erenavula, Vunibaka Conversions: Serevi (2). South Africa: Tries: Venter (2), Brink. Conversions: Brink (3). Fiji: J Tuikabe, A Natuyaga, L Koroi, W Serevi, M Ban, I Erenavula, M Vunibaka. Koroi replaced by T Naikolekele.

SOUTH AFRICA: A Venter, P Rossouw, B Skinstad, A Snyman, J van der Westhuizen, S Brink, J Olivier. Olivier replaced by B Pauise, Snyman replaced by G Bower

Mitchell in no mood for excuses as Sale slip

Bristol	34
Sale	24

BY PETER BILLS

THE inquest behind drawn shutters at the back of the Sale team coach had begun even in the car park at the Memorial Ground. Ensconced in privacy, John Mitchell, the Sale director of rugby, sat grim-faced at his side's profligacy in donating this Courage Clubs Championship first division victory to a struggling Bristol.

Never mind Sale's Pilkington Cup semi-final against Harlequins this Saturday, and the chance of a first appearance in the final — sides directed by New Zealanders, as they are, do not countenance excuses for such lost opportunities as this.

Sale were lacking seven first-team regulars, but Jim Mallinder, their captain, was still moved to call it "one of our worst performances of the season."

True, but only in part. For Sale had established a 24-13 lead by the 52nd minute even allowing for their careless finishing, which squandered more scoring opportunities. Even so, they were collectively a yard or two faster to the ball and were initially hungrier, rendering Bristol pedestrian by comparison.

Just 30 minutes and three converted tries later, Bristol had pilfered victory with the somewhat embarrassed expression of youngsters scrumping apples from an orchard.

Sale's collapse, from which David Tiueti, the Bristol wing, was the main beneficiary with two tries, began at a 57th-minute scrum. A total lack of concentration by the Sale forwards was the only explanation for a scrummage which retreated faster than a pressurised politician. Bristol scored and were subsequently unrecognisable in achieving only their second league win in 11 games.

SCORERS: Bristol: Tries: Tiueti (2), Eagle, Lawsey. Conversions: Burke (4) Penalty goals: Burke (2). Sale: Tries: Yates, Mallinder. Conversion: Verbickas Penalty goals: Verbickas (4).

BRISTOL: J Lawsey; D Tiueti, F Waters, K Maggs, B Breeze; P Burke, R Jones; D Hinkins, B McConnell, K Fulman, M Corry, P Adams, C Eagle, R Collins, E Rollitt. Burke replaced by P Hull (78min).

SALE: J Mallinder; D Rees, D Wright, C Yates, S Verbickas; J Baxendell, J O'Reilly; P Winstanley, S Diamond, M Driver, D Erskine. D Baldwin, J Fowler, D O'Grady, J Mitchell. Erskine replaced by N Ashurst (67).

Referee: S Piercy (Yorkshire)

Logan earns his stripes for Wasps

Wasps	62
Orrell	5

BY BRYAN STILES

IF THERE is one thing that Kenny Logan admires about his new team-mates at Wasps it is the way that they support each other in defence or attack — particularly attack. It was a commitment that helped him to five tries in this match, a record haul for the Courage Clubs Championship first division.

It was only his second league game for the club; he had hardly got his feet under the table at Sudbury and here he was hogging the limelight. It was not his fault that he was faced by one of the weakest teams in the first division in Orrell, who are bottom of the table.

Logan's previous highest try tally in a club match had been three, and that was two years ago for Stirling County, the club that he left several weeks ago to join Wasps, who will feel that their reported £120,000 outlay over three years will be well spent if he can replicate this sort of form.

Logan, 23, a farmer's son who now owns a 300-acre arable farm in Scotland to which he will retire when he leaves the game, travels down from Stirling each midweek for training and match preparation. He will do that for the remainder of the season, moving into a London flat before next term. His presence lends a sharper edge to the Wasps back division as they strive to retain their position at the head of the league.

In the first half Wasps seemed unstoppable and Orrell's efforts to keep them out sent a quiver of embarrassment down the spine, so inept was their defence at times. Lawrence Dallaglio, the

Full results and league tables ....Page 34

Wasps captain, must have thought that he was performing in the World Cup sevens in Hong Kong — a tournament from which he withdrew through illness — so frisky were his charges before the interval.

His players, though, got bored with the one-way flow and refused to move out of second gear for much of the second half. At least the Orrell response brought them more territorial advantage after the interval, even if they drew a scoring blank.

One of the more incongruous statements in the second half came when Dallaglio shouted at his players: "We are throwing it away." The fact that Wasps were winning 55-5 was immaterial to him. The championship could come down to points difference and he wanted as many points on the board as he could get. This victory stretched Wasps' lead at the head of the table to four points, with Leicester, their nearest rivals, having played one game fewer.

Dallaglio was at the heart of most of the good things produced by Wasps, including some of Logan's tries, the first of which came in the fifth minute. Logan's most spectacular try came in the 28th minute, when Rees threw him an American football-style pass almost half the width of the pitch.

SCORERS: Wasps: Tries: Logan (5), Rosser (2), Greenstock, Scrivener Conversions: Rees (6), King. Penalty goal: Rees Orrell: Try: Heslop

WASPS: G Rees; S Rosser, N Greenstock, R Henderson, K Logan; A King, A Gomarsall; D Molloy, S Mitchell, W Green, L Dallaglio, M Greenwood. A Reed, M White. P Scrivener Rees replaced by J Ufton (63); Mitchell replaced by K Dunn (63); Reed replaced by R Kinsey (73); M Wood temporary replacement for Gomarsall (60-62)

ORRELL: S Taberner; J Naylor, D Lyon, L Tuigamala, N Heslop; M McCarthy, S Cook; M Worsley, N Hitchin; S Turner, P Anglesea, P Rees, C Cusani, R Hegge, A Bennett. Hitchin replaced by A Moffat (57); Taberner replaced by W Munroe (74); Rees replaced by C Brierly (74).

Referee: A Spreadbury (Somerset)

Excitement lacking as Harlequins canter in

Harlequins	48
West Hartlepool	10

BY BARNEY SPENDER

FOR Harlequins it was like another day at the office. A sunny afternoon, seven tries, including a second half hat-trick for Nick Walshe, two points in the kitty and, bearing in mind the Pilkington Cup semi-final against Sale on Saturday, no new injuries.

All very satisfactory; and yet, in spite of the 48-10 scoreline, this was also one of the blander days at the Stoop, probably for the fact that the outcome was never in doubt from the moment when Harlequins opted to run a penalty in front of the West Hartlepool posts. The ball was moved right and O'Leary powered through for the try which, with Lacroix's conversion, gave them a 17-0 lead. The fact that it came after just seven minutes meant that the 4,600 crowd was consigned to sitting through a largely meaningless last 73 minutes.

The win brought Harlequins level on points with Bath, but Andy Keast, the coach, mindful of the vital importance of qualifying for Europe next season, was still wearing a frown rather than his usual Cheshire-cat grin after the game.

"It's about concentration and focus," he said. "In the first 15 minutes it was there, but then we lost it. We've got to learn to be able to control our mental strength." The implication is that, in the final shake-out with Wasps, Leicester and Bath, that failing may count badly.

In patches, Harlequins did play some fine rugby. Cabannes roamed effectively and Lacroix showed some of his trademark sleight of hand to marshal a midfield which featured an impressive performance from Jason Keyter, who got the first of the tries.

SCORERS: Harlequins: Tries: Walshe (3), Corcoran (2), Keyter, O'Leary Conversions: Lacroix (5) Penalty goal: Lacroix. West Hartlepool: Tries: Earnshaw, S Johns.

HARLEQUINS: P Challinor; D O'Leary, J Keyter, W Carling, M Corcoran; T Lacroix, N Walshe; L Benezech, T Billupa, J Leonard, R Jenkins, Gareth Llewellyn, L Gross, M Watson, L Cabannes. Leonard replaced by A Mullins (41min); Corcoran replaced by J Williams (52); Walshe replaced by Hames (77)

WEST HARTLEPOOL: M Silva; G Truelove, L Botham, J Connolly, S John; C John, M Roderick; D Barnes, A Peacock, W de Jonge, M Emmerson, C Murphy. K Moseley, R Earnshaw, I Morgan, De Jonge replaced by P Whitelock (54); Botham replaced by J Stabler (60); Roderick replaced by T Harvey (60).

Referee: G Hughes (Manchester).

Davies glad to return to centre of attention

Cardiff	57
South Wales Police	30

BY GERALD DAVIES

LEIGH DAVIES has endured a season in the doldrums. Last year, while with Neath, he burst on the international scene so successfully in the centre for Wales that his name was soon referred to in terms of potential inclusion in the British Isles contingent. Certainly at that time he looked to be so good a midfield player that he was a front runner for a part in South Africa.

Regrettably, all this faded. In his first season with Cardiff, not only has he failed to enhance his standing, but also he has fallen back. Voted the most promising player in Wales last year, he has failed to fulfil that promise.

However, on Saturday, in this quarter-final of the Swalec Cup, for the first time this season, he amply demonstrated that he has not lost those gifts which made him seem born of the classic mould — swift and delicate passes, able also to show a clean pair of heels on the arc of an outside break or a short, straight burst. Such penetration resulted in four tries for him.

To succeed in this way means that he had to vary his alignment to create the space. This season this has not happened. Either the failing has not been brought to his attention or he has been unable or unwilling to adjust during what is, for him, a lost season.

Whether such refinements will continue will depend on the requirements of Alex Evans, the former Cardiff coach. After a year back in Australia as a consultant to the national team, he is due to return to Cardiff next season.

Davies, along with Gareth Jones, his partner, helped to make this an entertaining match. They are an exciting pair in the centre and on this form should return soon for international consideration. On Saturday they were given the room to manoeuvre by the promptings of Jonathan Davies.

Not that the action was all one-way, nor that the score truly reflects the difference. Indeed, South Wales Police provided many threatening, continuous attacks of such quality that the clubs in Wales's first division might learn a good deal. With Rees providing the lineout possession, the fine support work and timing of the players' passes ensured that they gave Cardiff a difficult time.



Leigh Davies: high scorer

Justin Price gave the Police a well-justified lead after eight minutes, but Cardiff responded in wonderful fashion with Leigh Davies benefiting three times and Jones once with tries to give their side a 26-3 lead. Darryl Thomas scored for the Police just before half-time.

With Ford extending the lead after the interval, Cardiff looked to have subdued the Police, but tries by Steven Rees and Pritchard brought them back to within two goals and raised hopes of a close finale. A spate of tries by Ford, Leigh Davies, Bennett and Walker, however, ensured that Cardiff went beyond the Police despite tries by James and Codd.

With two of the quarter-finals still to be played, Cardiff will not know who their opponents will be until after next weekend.

SCORERS: Cardiff: Tries: L Davies (4), Ford (2), G Jones, Bennett, Walker. Conversions: Jarvis (6) South Wales Police: Tries: Thomas, Rees, Pritchard, James, Codd. Conversion: Price. Penalty goal: Price.

CARDIFF: L Jarvis; N Walker, L Davies, G Jones, S Ford; J Davies, J Hewett; A Lewis, P Young, L Mustoe, M Bennett, D Jones, L Jones, O Williams, E Lewis. L Jones replaced by K Stewart (67min); Hewlett replaced by T Walsh (77).

SOUTH WALES POLICE: P Sparrow; D Thomas, J Apsee, S Pritchard, R James; J Price, G Jones; M Randall, M Poole, G Bundock, R Andrews, N Jones, S Rees, S Legge, I Hamburrow. Andrews replaced by M Codd (41); Bundock replaced by P Jones (48); Pritchard replaced by M Tetchell (24).

Referee: W D Bevan (Clydach).

Thanet conjure one final effort

Thanet Wanderers	18
Sudbury	13
(aet; 13-13 at 80min)	

BY BARRY TROWBRIDGE

HE MAY not have run quite so far and there was no capacity Twickenham crowd to cheer his every stride. For folk down Thanet way, however, Peter Macaulay's try, in the final minute of extra time at Henley on Saturday, will be every bit as memorable as the glorious run by Andy Hancock that drew the 1965 Calcutta Cup match. It earned his side an outing against Doncaster on the hallowed turf of southwest London on May 3.

Traditionally, one-match semi-finals stagnate, but this game, which was to determine one of the finalists in the inaugural Rugby Football Union Intermediate Cup, had everything. Sudbury shrugged off the lethargy that clouded their quarter-final with Broadstreet and Thanet showed again that they do not concede defeat until well past the third chorus of *Zulu Warrior*. Total commitment would be an understatement.

As in their matches against Guildford and Godalming and Cinderford, Thanet had plenty still to do as the second half unfolded, yet kept their nerve, battled back by doing the basics correctly, then conjured a try to take the game into extra time.

Approaching the hour, however, Thanet should have been history. With Howlet and Pinnegar dominating the lineout and Williams, on the flank, crunching anything that moved, Sudbury led 13-3 and only outstanding defence was keeping Thanet in the tie.

Like the spring weather, though, the theme unaccountably changed, and suddenly every Thanet player wanted the ball in his hands. To good effect, too; for a strong run by Coyne soon sent Stokes over wide on the right, and it was a high tackle on the same player that incurred the penalty from which Smith burrowed over to buy them more time.

For a first, the final should be something worthy of Twickenham. Having won all their games in London II South and North II, respectively, this season, Thanet and Doncaster could not be better matched, and Doncaster, too, pulled themselves out of the fire with a try after 79 minutes and had to endure extra time before they got the better of Middlesbrough after an 8-8 draw, only because they won by a greater margin in the quarter-finals.

SCORERS: Thanet Wanderers: Tries: Stokes, Smith, Macaulay. Penalty goal: Redmond. Sudbury: Tries: Sumner, Evans. Penalty goal: J Cowling.

THANET WANDERERS: G Redmond; E Stokes, M Coyne, P Macaulay, M Meyer; G Harper, J Ward; R Guild, C Smith, T Carter; A Michael, P Hughes. G Hingley, C Manson, D Langley. Michael replaced by S Hams (78min); Hingley replaced by J Aslet (90); Redmond replaced by M Pond (92)

SUDBURY: D Beanland, G Evans, J Cowling, R Sumner, A Tibbles; M Jury, S Harries; F Banks, S Excell, R Ward, D Williams, I Howlet, S Pinnegar, S Bull, G Atherton. Jury replaced by D Minter (17); Ward replaced by M Burman (76); J Cowling replaced by K Cowling (92)

Referee: S Savage (Warwickshire).

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John Hopkins tries to keep up with a sporting celebrity on a whirlwind weekend

Offiah still intent on cracking two codes



Offiah caps his weekend in style by bursting clear to score for Bedford with only his third touch of the ball. Photograph: Marc Aspland







After popping in at the Palace for his gong, Offiah prepares to be airlifted to Warrington, where he helps London Broncos to a 38-18 victory

Just before 1pm on Friday a black Mercedes drove out through the gates of Buckingham Palace. It was one of those limousines with darkened windows favoured by people who pretend that they do not want to be seen but do really. When it stopped and the windows were wound down, you could see that Martin Offiah was in the front passenger seat, holding up his MBE insignia — awarded for services to rugby — that the Prince of Wales had just presented to him. In the back seat were his mother, Regina, in a multicoloured dress and with a smile as wide as Africa, and Zara, his girlfriend.

It was a glorious spring day, and by now Offiah's odyssey was well under way. He had woken just after seven o'clock and had been driven to the Palace for the investiture. In the next 27 hours Offiah would play a game of rugby league for London Broncos and a rugby union match for Bedford.

This hectic, publicity-driven stunt would come to a rousing conclusion with him making a try-scoring dash for the line to seal Bedford's 32-11 victory over Rotherham. It was symbolic, however, that Offiah, who had left the Palace on Friday in a chauffeur-driven Mercedes, had to cadge a lift from Rotherham rugby ground on Saturday in a Citroën Xantia, driven by a team-mate.

Who is this tall, slim and rather shy man, uneasy with the media, not yet a part of the Bedford rugby union team for whom he recently signed, and not fully integrated into the London Broncos, the rugby league team in which Richard Branson's Virgin Group recently bought a much-heralded interest? Offiah is a man who has crossed codes and yet seems slightly out of place in both. He is of both union and league, yet truly of neither.

Sometimes the publicity that he generates works to his cost. His much-vaunted helicopter ride from Battersea to Manchester before the Super League game against Warrington Wolves will not be repeated. "I've not been up in a helicopter before and I shan't be going up in a helicopter again," he said on Friday night. He was asked how he was getting to the game for Bedford against Rotherham the next day? "In a car, mate."

There is a roundabout only a decent punt from Warrington's ground. It is named after Brian Bevan, rugby league's highest try-scorer, and dominated by a statue of Bevan and three rugby posts. The floodlights were switched on and they cast an eerie shadow over the statue as Offiah, modern rugby league's most devastating try-scorer, made his way to the ground. However, he began the game in the shadows out on the left wing, the Broncos won easily, 38-18, Offiah touched the ball only nine times and he scarcely muddied his white shorts.

On Saturday afternoon Offiah, inconspicuous in a black training suit, sat on the bench. Not having trained with Bedford for two weeks, he had no aspirations to play and it was only when Marcus Cooke was injured that Offiah took the field. "Martin has not been as effective for us as we would like and I am sure he would like," Geoff Cooke, the director of rugby at Bedford, said.

> 'Yet he seems slightly out of place in both'

"What has he scored — ten or 11 tries for us in eight or nine games? Union is so much more crowded than league. Judging a run for a ball from a ruck in union is much less predictable. Martin is his own man. He is not really a team man. He certainly is not your usual rugby type."

Is Offiah an ageing star doing the rounds before *anno domini* takes all the speed from his legs? Perhaps; but he still has a genuine appeal. He might not have made much impression at Warrington on Friday, but, the moment that he took the pitch at Rotherham, one small boy said to another: "There he is. There's Martin Offiah."

Cooke said: "There is a real buzz around the ground the moment Martin gets the ball. This is sometimes followed a moment or two later by a groan when he is tackled." Perhaps Offiah is worth the £400,000 that his manager said he earns from his cross-codes contracts.

Offiah is not an easy communicator. After the game on Friday he sat in a room beneath the main stand, looking ill at ease. He wore a royal blue denim shirt, white trousers, brown slip-on shoes. Cradled in his hand was his comforter, a mobile phone, that symbol of the 90s without which no celebrity is complete.

His eyes darted around, as if searching for a friendly face. He was asked to explain the difference between union and league. He gulped and forced a joke: "That's an essay question. Anyone who has watched the two games knows the difference. League is a lot more physically demanding game, union is a lot more complex. You don't get so many running chances in the backs in union. Today our forwards played pretty well. I've played in union when I don't think I've touched the ball once.

"In union the players are much fitter than they used to be. They close things down, work a lot harder. Without a doubt the level of fitness is the biggest difference. English rugby used to be a bit set-piece to set-piece. I find now there is a lot less space.

"The special aspect of a rugby union game has changed. You can't have a professional game and have a big social thing afterwards. There are so many prizes for winning. Bedford have to get into the first division. If Bedford don't, I'm sure Frank Warren is not going to be too happy after he has invested so much money. I see quite a lot of Frank. He is chairman of the club. He has a hands-on role now. He said at his last press conference that it was his money, so he is going to dictate how it is going to be spent.

"I have signed for Bedford for four years. I have signed for the Broncos for three years. Then I'm going to be a long time retired. I've got to make the most of these last couple of years and then seek other employment." He is certainly doing that.

ICE HOCKEY

Nottingham negotiate marathon semi-final

By Norman de Mesquita

IN THE longest game in the history of British ice hockey, Nottingham Panthers beat Ayr Scottish Eagles 6-5 to qualify for the Superleague championship final next Saturday, where they will meet Sheffield Steelers, who were 5-2 winners over Cardiff Devils in the other semi-final.

With 5½ minutes of regulation time to go, and Ayr leading 5-2, Mike Blaisdell, the Nottingham coach, queried the legality of Ryan Kummus's stick. The curvature of the blade was found to be over the limit and, during the resulting Nottingham power play, Ian Bishop scored to narrow the gap to two. Neil Morgan and Bishop then brought the Panthers level within the next 80 seconds and what had looked like a convincing Ayr victory became an extraordinary battle.

The teams embarked on a ten-minute sudden death overtime period, but it proved to be the first of five such periods which failed to produce a goal. It was not until the sixth minute of the sixth extra session that Jeff Hoad scored to bring the Panthers their hard-earned success.

That ended 115 minutes and 49 seconds of actual playing time and the game took four hours and 33 minutes to complete. Both goaltenders — Sven Ramf, of Ayr, and Trevor Robins, of Nottingham — made some spectacular saves during overtime, knowing that one small mistake could cost their team the game. Robins, asked if he had found it difficult to maintain concentration over such a long period, said: "Concentration is tougher at the start, but, in a long game like that, it is essential to keep a positive frame of mind; the fatigue factor is the biggest problem."

For Kummus, it was an amazing lapse as he had been penalised for the same offence in a quarter-final game against Manchester Storm. Had Blaisdell seen that on television? "I read about it," he said, "but I was desperate and we needed a power play."

Ironically, the winning goal came after Bishop had been sent to the penalty box for a holding offence, but Hoad broke away and sank his own rebound for the winner.

Sheffield's win over Cardiff seemed mundane by comparision. It was something of a surprise, as the Devils had had the better of their league meetings this season, but the Steelers played a strong, disciplined defensive game and never allowed Cardiff to settle.

Results, page 33

St Helens accept early invitation to final

St Helens..... 50
Salford Reds 20

By Christopher Irvine

SUCH is the overwhelming sense of confidence at St Helens that, several minutes before the end of a crushing Silk Cut Challenge Cup semi-final victory, joyous supporters were having leaflets advertising Wembley packages pressed into their hands.

It was strange to hear Shaun McRae, their Australian coach, insist that at no time in the match had he felt comfortable, because it is the self-belief that he has preached in the past 14 months that has put steel in the St Helens spine. Wigan have handed out countless master classes at Central Park, but the one given by St Helens on Saturday was especially humbling.

Poor Salford. Only Wigan's freakish 71-point drubbing of Bradford five years ago spared them conceding the heaviest defeat in a semi-final. It is easy to criticise the gamble on Cartwright and Platt, who were not alone in carrying injuries, but Andy Gregory, the Salford coach, was honest enough to admit that even a fully-fit side would not have stopped a rampant St Helens.

McRae was probably alone among the 12,580 at Central Park in biting his lip. In Private Fraser's favourite word, Salford — *"Dad's Army"* — appeared "doomed" from the beginning. Pitchfork-carrying veterans are no match for swaggering young guns. St Helens bristled with pace, nerve and intuition and long before the finish Salford's weary tacklers had bowed to the inevitable.

Bobbie Goulding, who ends a six-match suspension next month for his dismissal in the fourth round defeat of Wigan, has much for which to be grateful. There is little doubt that he, not Lee Briers will be the St Helens scrum half at Wembley on May 3, but the youngster has coped admirably, not least on Saturday with six from eight goal attempts, while being guided and cajoled by the excellence of Tommy Martyn outside him.

Julian O'Neill, who is improving in the front row with every appearance, is the one newcomer in a side whose assurance and cocksure manner has swelled with winning the Challenge Cup and Super League last year. Perhaps only Bradford, who McRae expects to beat Leeds in the other semi-final at Huddersfield on Saturday, can best exploit the lapses that allowed Blakeley, Rogers and McAvoy their second half tries.

Full results and league tables ....Page 34

With the exception of Leeds, nobody would quibble with another St Helens v Bradford final to celebrate the competition's centenary after the classic last year. "Having been to Wembley and tasted success, we wouldn't like not have gone again," McRae said. "There's a theory that you have to get beaten in a final to win one. If Bradford get through, I just hope that doesn't work out."

Although Keiron Cunningham took the man-of-the-match award, embellished by a stunning individual try and some risible tackling on Salford's part, there were any number of candidates. Karle Hammond's switch from stand-off to loose forward last season has proved productive. Three times his subtle timing and passes in midfield unlocked the Salford defence to release the unstoppable Alan Hunte down the right.

Down the left flank, Salford were no less wobbly. Anthony Sullivan's hat-trick was completed in 22 minutes. By far the best of his tries was the first, as Newlove swotted off four would-be tacklers. A hapless Salford trio was so busy tracking the centre they were thrown off the scent by his neat switch infield to Sullivan.

Salford were justified in their grievance about the build-up to the try by Joynt on half-time. Rogers was wrongly judged to have made contact with the kick put up by Martyn, which allowed St Helens six extra tackles from which they made the score 14-4.

For the final, helter-skelter try by Prescott, Salford had already retreated, while St Helens supporters were booking their trips to London.

SCORERS: St Helens: Tries: Hunte (3), Sullivan (3), Joynt, Cunningham, Prescott. Goals: Briers (6), Martyn. Salford Reds: Tries: Blakeley, Rogers, McAvoy. Goals: Blakeley (4)

ST HELENS: S Prescott, D Arnold, A Hunte, P Newlove, A Sullivan; T Martyn, L Briers; A Perelini, K Cunningham, J O'Neill, C Joynt, C Morley, K Hammond. Substitutes: I Pickavance, V Maisuba, D McVey, A Northey

SALFORD REDS: D Rogers; F Smi, S Naylor, N McAvoy, P Coussons, S Blakeley, I Watson; A Platt, P Edwards, C Eccles, P Forber, J Cartwright, D Hulme. Substitutes: L Savello, C Randall, F Faimalo, S Martin.

Referee: S Cummings (Widnes)

Shannon tread well-worn trail to another title

Shannon..... 15
Terenure College..... 12

By Karl Johnston

LIMERICK'S annual Civic Week is in full swing, and those who chose to attend local attractions other than the Insurance Corporation League rugby union match at Thomond Park on Saturday should be congratulated on their judgment. The absence of tries tells it like it was: a dreary encounter, dominated by the goalkickers — Andrew Thompson, of Shannon, and Girvan Dempsey, for Terenure.

Not that the Shannon faithful will worry. Their team took another, albeit faltering, step towards a third successive league title, the winning of which now looks a near-certainty. However, they were somewhat fortunate to get past opponents who refused to be overawed.

Before this match Shannon had experienced a few close shaves in the defence of their league title. Last Saturday they were thoroughly unconvincing, as turned-over possession and knock-ons proliferated.

Once, late in the first half, Shannon moved the ball well, when Billy O'Shea all but broke the cover, but, with the pack providing only spasmodic clean possession, chances for the backs were at a premium.

By contrast, Terenure launched far more promising attacks, featuring some good running by Ciaran Clarke, the full back, and the inventive Michael Smyth in the centre. Shannon's defence was, though, as well organised and resolute as usual.

A draw may have been a fairer result, though Terenure's supporters can point to the two missed goal kicks by Dempsey. Thompson, whose form as a goal-kicker tends to blow hot and cold for Shannon, also missed a veritable sitter, from the 22-metre line.

The two exchanged penalty goals within the first 16 minutes, before Dempsey's second successful kick, left Terenure leading 6-3 at half-time. Then, he and Thompson each landed two more goals to leave Shannon trailing 12-9 at the start of the final quarter.

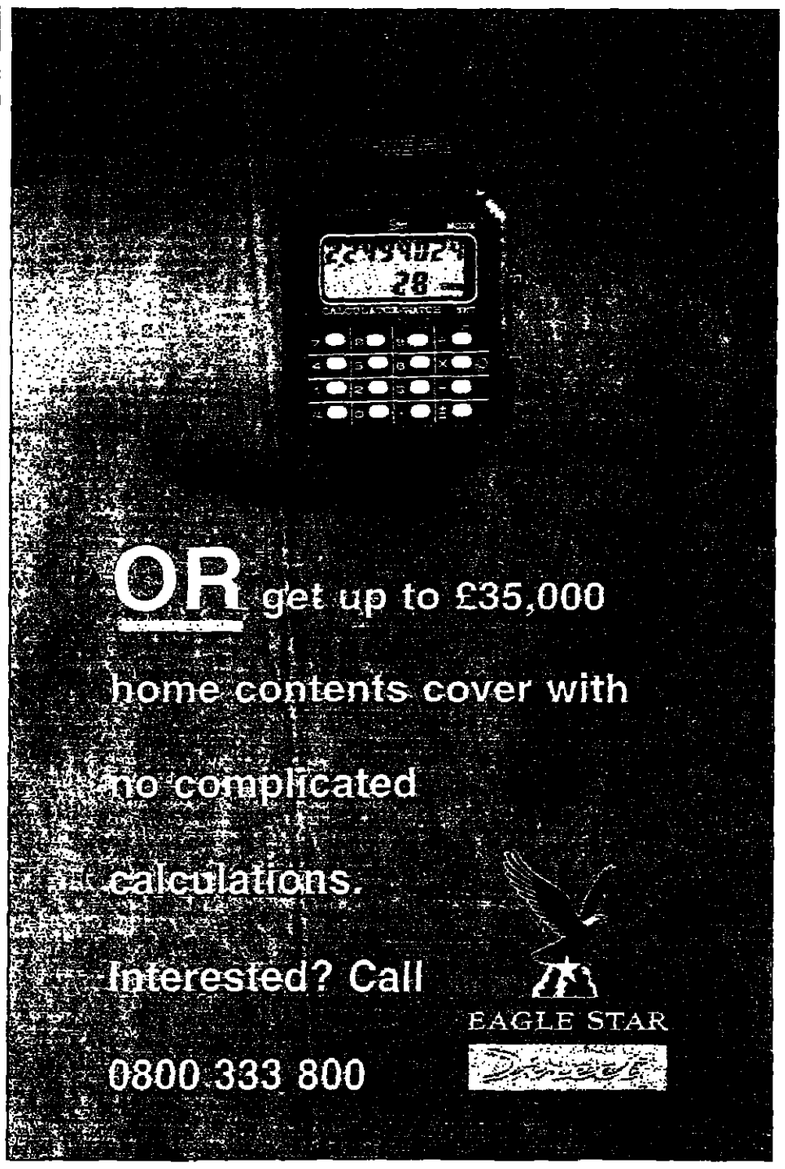
It was then that Terenure's luck ran out. First Mark Egan was penalised at a lineout and Thompson's fourth penalty goal tied the scores with some 12 minutes left. A promising Terenure offensive then broke down, Shannon roared back, the Terenure forwards handled in a ruck and Thompson kicked Shannon into the lead. Only Dungannon, Old Crescent and Instonians stand between Shannon and that third league triumph, and the match at Stevenson Park this Saturday is likely to be their only real test in the pursuit of victory.

SCORERS: Shannon: Penalty goals: Thompson (5). Terenure College: Penalty goals: Dempsey (4).

SHANNON: P Murray; B O'Shea, A McGrath, C McDermott, A Thompson; J Galvin, G Russell; J Hickey, J Deegan, N Healy, A Quinlan, R Sherrit, M Galwey, E Halvey, A Foley. Quinlan replaced by N Maher (57mm), Hickey replaced by M Horan (68), J Hayes temporary replacement for O'Shea Hayes (54-56).

TERENURE COLLEGE: C Clarke, G Dempsey, M Smyth, C de Gaseun, D Coleman, S Cullen, N Hogan; D Hyland, C Egan, P Bruce, J Kelly, G James, M Quinn, B Kavanagh, M Egan. Cullen replaced by J Muldowney (47); M Egan replaced by D Moriarty (75)

Referee: D Napier (Ulster)



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FOR THE RECORD

ATHLETICS

Cross country

TURIN: World championships: Senior men (12.3km): 1, P Tergat (Ken) 35min 11sec; 2, S Hissou (Mor) 35.13; 3, T Nyariki (Ken) 35.20; 4, P Koech (Ken) 35.23; 5, M Mourhit (Bel) 35.35; 6, B Barmasai (Ken) 35.35; 7, J Kibor (Ken) 35.37; 8, I Sghir (Mor) 35.56; 9, J Rey (Sp) 35.57; 10, K Boulami (Mor) 35.59; 14, J Brown (GB) 36.08. Junior men (8.5km): 1, E Korir (Ken) 24min 20sec; 2, M Wolde 24.26; 3, P Kosgei (Ken) 24.29. Senior women (6.7km): 1, D Tulu (Eth) 20min 53sec; 2, P Radcliffe (GB) 20.55; 3, G Workl (Eth) 21.00; 4, J Vaquero (Sp) 21.01; 5, S Barsosio (Ken) 21.05; 6, M Denboba (Eth) 21.18; 7, C McIlveman (Ire) 21.20; 8, N Mugo (Ken) 21.23; 9, S O'Sullivan (Ire) 21.25; 10, J Omoro (Ken) 21.29. Junior women (4.09km): 1, R Koskei (Ken) 14min 58sec; 2, P Jepleting (Ken) 14.59; 3, A Worku (Eth) 15.02.

SUNDERLAND: British veterans championships: Men: 1, M Williams (Shaftesbury Barnet) 32min 18sec; 2, M Girvan (Warrington) 32.41; 3, L Atkinson (Morpeth) 32.58. Team: Warrington. Over-45: M Hager (Tipton) 33.12. Over-50: B O'Neill (Aldershot, Farnham and District) 34.04. Over-55: R Highman (Tynedale) 39.45. Over-60: C Leigh (Norwich) 38.18. Over-65: D Howarth (Leigh) 43.42. Over-70: B Davidson (New Forest) 26.09. Women: 1, L Harding (Houghton and Peterlee) 18.59; 2, S Allen (Houghton and Peterlee) 19.11; 3, L Marr (Tynedale) 19.24. Team: Houghton and Peterlee. Over-40: J Jackson (Derbyn 19.56. Over-45: G Dean (Radley) 19.53. Over-50: D Fellows (Cannock and Stafford) 22.16. Over-55: C Lee (Gosforth) 23.30. Over-60: H Goodman (Kendal) 24.08. Over-65: J Ross (Garden City) 26.32.

Track and field

CRAWLEY: Open meeting: Men: Hammer: M Jones (Shaftesbury Barnet) 67.16m. Women: Pole vault: J Whitlock (Trafford) 3.50. Discus: L Keightley (Bracknell) 47.44.

Fell running

CHIPPING, Lancashire: Friendsdale race (9M, 2,600ft). Men: 1, G Devine (Pudsey and Bramley) 1hr 13min 32sec (record); 2, S Livesey (Clayton-le-Moors) 1.14.55; 3, A Trigg (Glossopdale) 1.16.11. Women (9M 3,600ft, inc English championships second race): 1, J Clark (Pudsey and Bramley, 35th) 1hr 30mn 45sec (record); 2, C Crofts (Dark Peak, W35, 37th) 1.31.11; 3, Y Hague (Pudsey and Bramley, 38th) 1.31.25.

LLANBEDR, South Wales: Pen Cerrig Calch race (3M, 1,500ft; inc Welsh championships second race). Men: 1, T Davies (Merica, U20) 26min 35sec (record); 2, J Blackett (Mandale) 28.29; 3, W Kennan (unattached) 28.31. Women: 1, A Nixon (Mynydyr de Cymru, W35, 28th) 33.11 (record); 2, A Bedwell (Mynydyr de Cymru, W35) 34.00; 3, C Ashton (unattached) 38.33.

BASKETBALL

BUDWEISER LEAGUE: Friday: Chester 73 Thames Valley 87. Saturday: Crystal Palace 76 (Ayinla 18, Scantlebury 17, Cummings 16) Newcastle 86 (Fite 20, Blalock 19, Morton 19), Hemel and Watford 88 (Stiller 26, Vogel 22, Hopper 11, Schultz 11) London Towers 113 (Gottfried 16, Austin 15, Windlass 13). Derby 98 (C McGee 21, Ratliff 16, Robinson 15) Leicester 85 (Renkang 21, Phoenix 17, Hams 14, L McGee 14) Worthing 77 (Hamilton 31, Thomas 20) Sheffield 84 (Winters 33, Cauthorn 20, Huggins 16).

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
* Leopards	32	25	7	2997	2625	50
Birmingham	31	23	8	2761	2577	46
* Sheffield	31	23	8	2772	2452	46
* Chester	32	22	10	2771	2618	44
* London Tow	30	22	8	2634	2396	44
Manchester	33	19	14	2613	2472	38
* Newcastle	32	18	14	2822	2768	36
* Derby	32	13	19	2820	2846	26
Leicester	31	13	18	2728	2683	26
* Thames Vall	29	10	19	2632	2666	20
Worthing	32	10	22	2654	2669	20
* C Palace	33	5	28	2492	2837	10
Hemel and W	32	2	30	2685	3362	4

* not including last night's matches

NATIONAL LEAGUE: Men: First division: Liverpool 95 Solent 93; Mid Sussex 91 Cardiff 88; Nottingham 83 Ware 80; Oxford 81 Coventry 78. Second division: Flintshire 67 Thames Valley 87; Northampton 68 Chessington 91; Slough 78 Bournemouth 62; South Wales 99 South Bank 85. Women: First division: Barking and Dagenham 88 Northampton 60; Ipswich 61 Birmingham 68; London: 44 Thames Valley 73; Nottingham 57 Halesden 52; Rhondda 71 Crystal Palace 55; Spelthorne 52 Sheffield 69. Second division: Play-offs: Semi-final: Liverpool 86 Leicester 55.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): Friday: Orlando 104 Boston 99; Charlotte 102 Toronto 97; Philadelphia 112 New Jersey 110; Miami 98 LA Lakers 97; Atlanta 93 Dallas 72; Detroit 112 Minnesota 98; Chicago 117 Indiana 98, Vancouver 105 Denver 101, Sacramento 114 San Antonio 110 (OT). Saturday: Washington 108 Portland 104; Charlotte 100 Golden State 93 (OT); Chicago 103 Detroit 88; Cleveland 75 Dallas 72; Phoenix 104 Houston 99; Milwaukee 80 New York 79; Utah 107 LA Clippers 94; Seattle 113 Sacramento 99.

Eastern Conference				
Atlantic division	W	L	Pct	GB
* Miami	50	17	.746	—
* New York	49	19	.721	1½
Orlando	38	29	.567	12
Washington	33	35	.485	17½
New Jersey	20	46	.303	29½
Philadelphia	18	49	.269	32
Boston	13	56	.188	38
Central division				
* Chicago	59	9	.868	—
* Detroit	48	20	.706	11
Atlanta	46	22	.676	13
Charlotte	45	24	.652	14½
Cleveland	36	31	.537	22½
Indiana	31	36	.463	27½
Milwaukee	28	39	.418	30½
Toronto	25	43	.368	34
Western Conference				
Midwest division	W	L	Pct	GB
* Utah	51	17	.750	—
* Houston	45	23	.662	6
Minnesota	33	34	.493	17½
Dallas	22	45	.328	28½
Denver	19	48	.284	31½
San Antonio	16	51	.239	34½
Vancouver	12	58	.171	40
Pacific division				
* Seattle	47	20	.701	—
* LA Lakers	45	22	.672	2
Portland	40	29	.580	8
LA Clippers	29	37	.439	17½
Phoenix	29	39	.426	18½
Sacramento	29	40	.420	19
Golden State	25	43	.368	22½

* denotes qualified for play-offs

BILLIARDS

MADRAS: Gold Flake championship: Final: G Sethi (India) bt A Kumar (India) 7-3.

BOXING

ATLANTIC CITY, New Jersey: World Boxing Council light-heavyweight championship: Montell Griffin (US) bt Roy Jones (US, holder) disq 9th.

WYTHENSHAWE FORUM, Manchester: British super-bantamweight championship (vacant): Michael Brodie (Manchester) bt Neil Swan (Cardiff) ko 10th. Heavyweight (8rnds): Wayne Llewellyn (Deptford) bt Mike Sedillo (US) ko 2nd. Super-middleweight (10rnds): Joe Calzaghe (Newbridge) bt Tyler Hughes (US) ko 1st. Light welterweight (8rnds): Nigel Wenton (Liverpool) bt Wayne Boudreaux (US) pts. (4rnds): Mark Haslam (Manchester) drew with Mark Richards (Wednesbury). Featherweight (4rnds): Michael Gomez (Manchester) bt John Farrel (Bootle) rsc 2nd.

CORPUS CHRISTI, Texas: World Boxing Council super-featherweight championship: Genaro Hernandez (Mex) bt Azumah Nelson (Ghana, holder) pts. International Boxing Association light-flyweight championship (vacant): Michael Carbajal (Mex) bt Scotty Olson (Can) ko 10th.

SARABURI, Thailand: International Boxing Federation mini-flyweight championship: Rattanapol Dutchbooygym (Thai, holder) bt Luis Dona (Col) ko 4th.

CRICKET

TOUR MATCH: Bridgetown (first day of three): Indians 210 (A D Jadeja 50, D Marshall 6-62) v Barbados.

SHEFFIELD SHIELD: Final: Perth (third day of four): Queensland 320 and 259-2 (T J Barsby 111, S G Law 72), Western Australia 165 (M W Goodwin 65, A Dale 6-38).

RED STRIPE CUP (third day of four): Berbice, Guyana: Guyana 281 (C L Hooper 119, C B Lambert 55; I R Bishop 5-82) and 24-0; Trinidad and Tobago 413 (P V Simmons 116, D Ganga 54, Bishop 50) St Catherine, Jamaica: Jamaica 156 and 337-9 dec (M D Ventura 96, J C Adams 73, I Garnick 50); Leeward Islands 145 (F A Rose 6-63) and 9-1.

CYCLING

MILAN-SAN REMO RACE (294km): 1, E Zabel (Ger, Deutsche Telekom) 6hr 57mn 47sec; 2, A Elli (It, Casino); 3, B Conte (It, Songhi); 4, F Casagrande (It, Sasco); 5, M Barroli (It, Maglificio MG); 6, M Celestino (It, Polti); 7, S Lichakov (Uiv, Polti); 8, R Sorensen (Den, Rabobank); 9, A Ferrigato (It, Rosiotti); 10, A Noe (It, Asics); 15, M Scandri (GB, La Francaise des Jeux) all same time.

ROAD RACES: Appliance Plugs March Hare race (Eastney circuit, London, 100km): Men: 1, R Hayles (Team Ambrosia) 2hr 23min 36sec; 2, J Tanner (Controlware RT) same time; 3, N Craig (Diamondback) at 10sec. Women (64km): 1, J Freeman (Easterley RC) 1hr 47min 10sec; 2 J Mann (Harlow CC) same time; 3, S Boyden (Uddridge CRT) at 12sec.

GOLF

ORLANDO, Florida: Bay Hill Invitational: Leaders after three rounds (United States unless stated): 205: O Uresti 69, 67, 69. 208: T Herron 70, 70, 68; M O'Meara 72, 66, 68; S Appleby (Aus) 73, 63, 70. 207: P Mickelson 72, 65, 70; L Roberts 70, 67, 70. 208: D Love III 73, 68, 67; B Andrade 68, 73, 67; C Parry (Sp) 71, 68, 209: M Bradley 71, 69, 69; R Damron 70, 70, 69; C Montgomerie (GB) 73, 66, 70; P Stewart 69, 70, 70.

210 R Freeman 71, 70, 69. 211 M Brooks 68, 71, 72; T Woods 68, 71, 72; D Duval 70, 71, 70. 212 D Pooley 73, 65, 74; J Sindelar 71, 70, 71. 213 B Faldo 67, C Parry (Aus) 72, 70, 69; P Lonard 69, 70, 72; L Mattiace 70, 69, 74; Henninger 70, 68, 73; N Fr 69, 73, P Stankowski 67, 70, 74. 212 E (Fij) 69, 72, 71. 213 P Senior 69, 71, 214: N Faldo (GB) 71, 70, 73. 217 J (Japan) 70, 73, 74. 219 I Woosnam 70, 73, 76, W Grady (Aus) 72, 71, 76.

ROYAL ST GEORGE'S, Sandwich: University match: Oxford beat Cambridge 11-4 (Second day's singles): Oxford names first: M Strading (Christ Church) bt Q Mallik (St John's) 10 and 9; M Lindelow (St Antony's) bt T McGill (Jesus) 3 and 2; M Hall (Robler) bt J Buell (Jesus) 1 up; B Payne (St Hugh's) bt J Firth (Lincoln) Christy 7 and 6; E Hawkes (Worcester) bt to J Fletcher (Magdalene) 1 hole; J Saunders (Exeter) bt N Patel (Trinity Hall) and 6; J Hayley (St John's) halved with P Guess (Darwen); L Bradley-Jones (Exeter) bt D Curtis (Trinity) 4 and 2; D McDowell (Keble) bt C Russell (Downing) 7 and 6; B Keogh (New College) bt W Rusted (Homerton). Overall singles score: Oxford 7½, Cambridge 2½.

HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE: First division: Bluefrants 1 Hull 2; Bournville 3 Bromley 4 Indian Gymkhana 1; Beeston 5 Isca 3; City of Portsmouth 3 Crosby 3; Oxford Hawks 2 Durham 1; Oxford University 1 Edgbaston 2; Slough 3, Gloucester City 2; St Albans 1 Holcombe Magpies 0; Stourport 2, Warrington Trojans 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Beeston	21	19	2	0	87	17	59
Doncaster	21	14	3	4	87	46	45
Bournville	21	11	3	7	52	40	36
Isca	21	10	6	5	56	46	36
Stourport	21	10	5	6	67	45	35
Indian Gym	21	10	4	7	57	46	34
Bluefrants	21	10	4	7	53	35	34
Firebrands	21	10	4	7	46	58	34
Brooklands	21	10	3	8	52	39	33
St Albans	21	9	5	7	51	42	32
Warrington	21	8	6	7	45	54	30
Sheffield	21	8	5	8	51	45	29
Lewes	21	8	4	9	62	66	28
Harleston M	21	7	6	9	39	45	27
Gloucester	21	8	3	10	36	52	27
Oxford Hawks	21	8	2	11	38	48	26
Bromley	21	5	6	10	43	61	21
Hull	21	5	5	9	50	49	20
Oxford Univ	21	6	4	11	36	44	19
Edgbaston	22	6	4	12	38	60	19
Portsmouth	21	5	5	11	40	57	15
Crosby	21	4	3	14	30	63	15
Trojans	21	1	4	16	25	75	7

NASTRO AZZURRO LEAGUE: Premier League: Wokingham 7 Gore Court 5; Hampshire/Surrey: Old Cranleighans 1 London University 1 Kent/Sussex Blackheath 1 Herne Bay 0.

KARACHI: Golden Jubilee five-nation tournament: Round-robin matches: Australia 3 Pakistan 3 (Germany, Holland 1 Third-place play-off: Australia 4 Pakistan 7. Final: Germany 3 Holland 1.

WOMEN'S NATIONAL LEAGUE: Premier division: Saturday: Balsam Leicester Ipswich 3 Clifton 2 Privets 0 Hightown 2 Doncaster 1 Slough 4 Sutton Coldfield 1. Yesterday: Slough 3 Trojans 1. First division: Bluefrants 1 Wimbledon 3 Bradford Swithenbank 4 Bracknell 1 Canterbury 0 Sunderland Sedans 1 Orpington 3 Chelmsford Broadoak 0 Second division: Ealing 4 West Wirney 3, Loughborough Students 3 Exmouth 1 Shoreditch 1 Loughtonians 0 Woking 2 St Albans 0.

ICE SKATING

LAUSANNE: World championships: Mixed ice dance: First ... Second ... Free programme ... Final ...

Woman: Final ...

MOTORCYCLING

PHILLIP ISLAND, Australia: World Superbike championship: First race ... Second race ... Leading overall positions ...

DONINGTON PARK, Autosport British Formula Three championship: First round ...

MOTOR RALLYING

FIGUEIRA DA FOZ, Portuguese Rally: First stage ...

ROWING

HEAD OF THE RIVER: Men's eight: 1, Leander 1 hour 1 min 4 sec; 2, Imperial College 1.01.09; 3, Hammersmith Univ 1.01.12; 4, Kingston Univ 1.01.49; 5, Thames Valley 1.01.58; 6, Reading Univ 1.02.06; 7, Oxford Brookes 1.02.11; 8, Cambridge Univ 1.02.18; 9, Leander 1.02.25; 10, Imperial College 1.02.32; 11, Pembroke College 1.02.39; 12, Royal Chester Regatta 1.02.46; 13, Oxford Univ 1.02.53; 14, Cambridge Univ 1.03.00; 15, Thames Valley 1.03.07; 16, Reading Univ 1.03.14. Fastest Services crew: ... Fastest Women's crew: ...

HENLEY University women's Boat Race: Reserve race: ... Women's lightweight Boat Race: ... Men's lightweight Boat Race: ...

RUGBY LEAGUE

Silk Cut Challenge Cup

Semi-final

St Helens	50	Salford	20

St Helens: Tries: ... Goals: ... Salford Reds: Tries: ... Goals: ... Att: 12,550. At Wigan.

Stones Super League

Halifax	18	Sheffield	16

Halifax: Tries: ... Goal: ... Sheffield: Tries: ... Goals: ... Att: 5,271.

FRIDAY'S LATE RESULTS: Oldham 16 Bradford 30; Park Saint-Gaimard 18 Leeds 28; Warrington 12 London 38.

First division

Swinton	14	Workington	12

Swinton: Tries: ... Goals: ... Workington: Tries: ... Goals: ... Att: 2,274.

Whitehaven	20	Hull	20

Whitehaven: Tries: ... Goals: ... Hull: Tries: ... Goals: ... Att: ...

FRIDAY'S LATE RESULT: Dewsbury 17 Featherstone 12.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
...					28	34	
Huddersfield							6
Wakefield							6
Dewsbury							4
Whitehaven							4
Featherstone							4
Hull							4
Halifax							4
Swinton							2
Workington							0

Second division

Barrow	16	Rochdale	30

Barrow: Tries: ... Goals: Manwaring 2, Rochdale: Tries: Hayes ... Goals: ... Salford 2. Att: 828.

Doncaster	17	Batley	54

Doncaster: Tries: ... Goals: ... Batley: Tries: ... Goals: ... Att: 643.

York	36	Prescot	16

York: Tries: ... Goals: ... Prescot: Tries: ... Goals: ... Att: 585.

FRIDAY'S LATE RESULT: Lancashire Lynx 26 Carlisle 6.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
...					62		8
...							6
...							4
...							4
...							4
...							4
...							2
...							2
...							0
...							0

Silk Cut Plate

Semi-finals

Leigh	20	Hull KR	48

Leigh: Tries: Daniel, Pucill, Purtill. Goals: Purtill 4. Hull Kingston Rovers: Tries: D'Arcy 2, Wilson 2, Adams, Chamberlain, D Hutchinson, M Fletcher, Rouse. Goals: M Fletcher 6. Att: 5,037.

Widnes	18	Hunslet	19

Widnes: Tries: Cunningham, Kendrick, Nelson. Goals: Gartland 2, Lythe. Hunslet: Tries: Booth-Manson, Ross. Goals: Booth 3. Dropped goal: Brook. Att: 2,400.

NATIONAL CONFERENCE LEAGUE: Premier division: Lock Lane 13 Mayfield 12; Saddleworth 37 Beverley 8; West Hull 27 Woolston 10. First division: Blackbrook 32 Leigh East 14; Dutton 24 Thornhill 12; Wigney Central 11 Milom 6; Wigan St Jude's 38 Moldgreen 10. Second division: New Earswick 29 Dewsbury Moor 23, York Acorn 23 Hull Dockers 22.

BNFL NATIONAL CUP: Fifth round: Askam 58 Wigan Tech 16; BRK 12 Normanton 19; Dudley Hill 28, Queens 18; Kells 22 Wigan St Patrick's 26; Ovenden 31 Milford 36; Shaw Cross 10 Ellenborough 34; Siddal 6 Scriaugh 9; West Bowling 8 Clayton 22.

ALLIANCE CHAMPIONSHIP: Salford 16 St Helens 8.

AUSTRALIAN SUPER LEAGUE: Hunter Mariners 32 North Queensland Cowboys 10; Perth Western Reds 34 Canterbury Bulldogs 6; Penrith Panthers 38 Cronulla Sharks 10.

AUSTRALIAN LEAGUE (ARL): Illawarra 8 St George 20; Parramatta 2 Sydney City 6; Gold Coast 26 Balmain 6; Newcastle 44 South Queensland 0; South Sydney 17 Western Suburbs 9.

SAILING

BT GLOBAL CHALLENGE: Fourth leg (Sydney to Cape Town, positions as at 13:50 GMT yesterday, with miles to Cape Town): 1, Group 4 2,911; 2, Concert 2,935; 3, Save The Children 2,950; 4, Global Teamwork 2,954; 5, Toshiba Wave Warrior 2,960; 6, Commercial Union 2,981; 7, Motorola 3,013; 8, Ocean Rover 3,087; 9, 3Com 3,093; 10, Courtaulds International 3,124; 11, Time & Tide 3,131; 12, Heath Insured II 3,178; 13, Nuclear Electric 3,179; 14, Pause To Remember 3,200.

SKIING

TIGNES, France: British Land national championships: Men: Super giant slalom: 1, J-L Cretier (Fr) 1min 17.39sec; 2, K Strasser (Austria) 1.18.03; 3, C Pichler (Austria) 1.18.12. Ballachi 4 equal, G Ball (Henley) and A Freshwater (Loch Insh) 1.19.34; 6, F Mackel (Edinburgh) 1.19.80. Leading overall positions: 1, Freshwater 279pts; 2, J Ormond (Grand Bornand) 232; 3, R Green (Falkirk) 206. Women: Super giant slalom: 1, E Carrick-Anderson (Aberdeenshire) 1.23.13; 2, A Gati Espana (Sp) 1.23.19; 3, S Ormond (Grand Bornand) 1.23.32. British: 6, S Robertson (Aberdeen) 1.24.81; 8, K Morris (York) 1.25.70. Leading overall positions: 1, Carrick-Anderson 300; 2 equal, Ormond and Robertson 260.

SPEEDWAY

SPEEDWAY STAR CUP: Friday: Belle Vue 48 Coventry 42; Peterborough 41 King's Lynn 49. Saturday: Coventry 45 Wolverhampton 45; Bradford 56 Swindon 34. Yesterday: Eastbourne 53 Ipswich 37.

TENNIS

KEY BISCAYNE, Florida: Lipton championships: Men: First round: C Woodruff (US) bt A Radulescu (Ger) 6-4, 6-4; J Abaza (US) bt S Bryan (US) 6-4, 6-0; J Golmard (Fr) bt S Bruno (US) 6-4, 6-0; J Gimelstob (US) bt G Raoux (Fr) 6-2, 6-3; G Ellis (Arg) bt M Woodforde (Aus) 6-2, 6-4; G Bastl (Arg) bt G Blanco (Sp) 6-4, 6-4; J Tarango (US) bt S Sargsian (Arm) 6-2, 7-5; S Draper (Aus) bt D Flach (US) 7-6, 2-6, 6-2; M Larsson (Swe) bt P Haarhuis (Holl) 7-5, 0-6, 7-5; D Nestor (Can) bt J Stark (US) 6-3, 0-6, 6-3; J Siemerink (US) bt J van Herck (Bel) 6-7, 6-3, 6-4; D Hrbaty (Slovakia) bt T Champion (Fr) 6-4, 6-0; N Kulti (Swe) bt M Ondruska (SA) 6-0, 6-2; T Haas (Ger) bt G Forget (Fr) 7-6, 7-5; S Draper (Aus) bt S Schalken (Holl) 6-3, 7-6; S Stolle (Aus) bt M A Gomez (Sp) 6-0, 8-7, 7-5; G Stafford (SA) bt L Paes (India) 7-6, 7-6. Second round: G Ivanisevic (Cro) bt B Black (Zim) 6-3, 6-3; W Ferreira (SA) bt J Novak (Cz) 6-4, 8-2; M Philippoussis (Aus) bt M Damm (Cz) 7-5, 7-6; M Chang (US) bt M Merklein (US) 6-3, 7-6; A Alonzo bt T Herman (GB) 6-7, 6-2, 6-3; Bhupathi

RACING: LABOUR GOVERNMENT WOULD APPOINT NEW CHAIRMAN FROM SHORTLIST OF FOUR

Tote candidates await Straw poll

BY RICHARD EVANS
RACING CORRESPONDENT

IF LABOUR wins the general election, Jack Straw is likely to choose a new Tote chairman from the existing shortlist of candidates rather than reopen the selection process for the £75,000-a-year position.

However, in a fascinating twist to the Tote saga, it emerged over the weekend that the names on the Home Office shortlist are widely at variance with those which have been bandied around in recent weeks.

Four names, rather than three, were included in a report prepared for Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, by his permanent under-secretary, Sir Richard Wilson, after candidates had been interviewed by a selection panel. The quartet consists of Christopher Sporborg, a Jockey Club member and chairman of United Racecourses; Peter Jones, a British Horseracing Board and Tote director; Major-General Guy Watkins, former chief executive of the Royal Hong Kong Jockey Club; and Maurice Lindsay, chief executive of the Rugby Football League.

Lord Astor, a former junior Heritage Minister, and Lieutenant-General Sir Willie Rous, a member of the Army Board until his retirement last July, did not make it onto the shortlist, contrary to persistent speculation.

As disclosed in *The Times* on Saturday, Watkins, 63, was Michael Howard's belated choice for the job. However, because an election has been called, the Home Secretary was obliged to consult his opposite number, Jack Straw, who blocked the appointment after being denied time to interview the shortlisted candidates.

Lord Wyatt, who is due to retire at the end of next month after 21 years at the helm of the pool betting organistion, is likely to be asked, with Labour's blessing, to stay on for a further two months until a successor has been chosen.

However, the vital question which remained unanswered yesterday was why Howard allowed himself to be delayed so long in making up his mind about the Tote job. I understand that he wrote to Wyatt last July, indicating he wanted the new chairman appointed by December so as to give him time to find his feet.

Even allowing for a delay, partly so the selection process met Nolan rules, the original shortlist of eight candidates was interviewed in January and Howard could have made a prompt decision — without being blocked by Straw.

"As an inner member of the Cabinet, Howard knew an election was coming and he could have made the decision much earlier without any problems," one Labour party source said. "Instead he dithered and dithered. It is entirely his own fault."

It is known that Wyatt lobbied intensely on behalf of Rous and the fact that the name of the former Quartermaster-General was not even included on the shortlist would have infuriated the Tote chairman. "There was a great deal of politicking going on throughout February," according to one insider.

Nevertheless, sources close to the Home Secretary have gone out of their way to insist the delay was not due to pressure from Wyatt. When Howard eventually proposed last Thursday that Watkins should have the job, Straw consulted with Tony Blair before refusing to agree.

"What we objected to was not the individual concerned — he may be perfectly suitable for the job — but the process. If you are having consultation with the Opposition you don't suddenly present a name as a fait accompli," a source close to Straw said.

Even those normally supportive of Howard find it hard to justify his actions. They also insist that a repeat of this selection process, with all its attendant publicity, would be damaging and must be avoided, otherwise the best candidates will not put themselves forward.



JULIAN HERBERT / ALLSPORT

Quinn drives Kuala Lipis, far side, to a short-head win over Hawksley Hill in the Worthington Lincoln at Doncaster

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: FENWICK (3.40 Ludlow)
Next best: Suranom (2.10 Ludlow)

Sporborg joins title leaders

POINT-TO-POINT BY CARL EVANS

SIMON SPORBORG may not have been on many shortlists for the national men's championship but he is in contention as the season reaches the halfway stage. Hertfordshire-based Sporborg, 24, rode a double at the **Cambridgeshire** on Saturday to join Jamie Jukes and Tim Mitchell at the head of the table with 11 winners.

"We cannot believe our luck at the moment," Sporborg said. His point-to-point yard is very much a family effort, involving his father, Christopher, the trainer, and his mother, Lucinda. "We began the season with a team of ten horses, sold one, but the rest are all still going strong."

Over The Edge, a reliable 11-year-old who likes firm ground, and five-year-old Borrow Mine were the winners on Saturday, although the odds-on Shake Five let down his supporters.

Jukes was resting bruises incurred the previous week but Mitchell rode Strong Chairman to win at the **Mendip Farmers**, creating the three-way tie at the top. Polly Curling was in double form at the same meeting, winning on Earthmover and Marion's Own to extend her lead in the women's championship.

Shirley Vickery's win on Front Cover took her score to ten, three behind Curling and one ahead of Alison Dare, who rode a double on Sam's Heritage and Danbury Lad at the **Vale Of White Horse** meeting.

Julian Pritchard was beaten on the odds-on Bishops Island at the **VWH** but Lets Twist Again, owned by a 24-strong syndicate called the Bean Club, was an impressive winner for him in the restricted.

The most depressing sights of the day were two-runner open races at the **Wilton**, and a walkover for The Whip in the ladies' race at the **Crawley & Horsham**. Rain is badly needed as the sport approaches the busy Easter weekend programme.

SATURDAY'S DETAILS

CAMBRIDGESHIRE (Horsheath): Confined: 1, Horace (W Wales, 7-4). 2, Shake Five; 3, Smart Pal. 3 ran. PPORA: 1, Dynamite Dan (S Cowell, 1-4 fav); 2, Divine Chance. 2 ran Men's Open 1, Over The Edge (S Sporborg, 4-5 fav); 2, River Melody; 3, Cockstown Lad. 5 ran. Ladies: 1, Dromin Leader (Miss L Rowe, 5-2); 2, Severn Invader; 3, Professor Longhair. 4 ran Rest: 1, Glenbrocken (Miss A Embiricos, 3-1 fav), 2, Grassington ; 3, Swift Reward. 8 ran Open Mdn I: 1, Borrow Mine (S Sporborg, 4-5 fav); 2, Amadeus; 3, Flapping Freda. 3 ran. Open Mdn II: 1, Andy Gawe (S Cowell, 4-6 fav); 2, Lantern Spark. Only 2 finished. 4 ran

CRAWLEY & HORSHAM (Parham): Hunt: 1, Kates Castle (J Van Praagh, 4-6 fav), 2, Bennys Dasher, 3, Local Manor. 7 ran. Rest: 1, Bibo Baggins (A Hickman, 4-1), 2, Royal Fireworks; 3, July Schoon. 4 ran. Ladies: 1, The Whip (Miss C Grissell) walked over. Men's Open: 1, Young Nimrod (P O'Keefe, 1-3 fav), 2, Pure Madness. 2 ran. Confined: 1, Monksfori (Miss C Holliday, Evens fav); 2, Sky Venture; 3, The Ponsoy Loon. 3 ran Open Mdn: 1, Vulgan Prince (A Greig, 5-4 fav); 2, Graphic Designer; 3, Malingerer. 7 ran

DUKE OF BUCCLEUCH'S (Friars Haugh): Hunt: 1, Misty Night (Miss A Bowe, 1-4 fav); 2, Thinkaboutthat; 3, Harry. 9 ran Rest: 1, Will Travel (A Robson, 5-1); 2, Canister Castle; 2, Whosgotsillysserise. 6 ran PPORA: 1, Toaster Crumpet (Miss P Robson, 4-1). 2, Harden Glen; 3, Tod Law. 6 ran. G Middleton Ladies: 1, Muskora (Miss P Robson, 2-1 fav), 2, Across The Card; 3, Very Evident. 11 ran. Men's Open: 1, Hagar (M Bradburne, 6-4 fav) 2, Todcrag; 3, Fiscal Policy. 6 ran. Confined: 1, Ensign Ewart (C Storey, 5-2 jf-fav); 2, Bit Of A Blather; 3, In Demand. 11 ran Mdn I: 1, Claywalls (T Scott, 5-1); 2, Dillons Bridge; 3, Mister Buzzo. 14 ran. Mdn (Div II): 1, Pipple (P Strang Steel, 50-1); 2, Black And Blues, 3, Red Hot Boogie. 12 ran Mdn III: 1, Peelinick (C Storey, 5-1); 2, Newbrano; 3, Bluebell Track. 13 ran

HURWORTH (Hutton Rudby): Hunt: 1, Not The Nadger (A Ogden, 8-1); 2, Lynngo; 3, Attik. 8 ran. Rest: 1, Coy Buzz (K Needham, 12-1); 2, Cormen; 3, Mount Fosber. 14 ran. Ladies: 1, Carole's Delight (Mrs L Ward, 7-4 fav); 2, Kellys Diamond; 3, Douce Indienne. 9 ran Land Rover Open: 1, General Brandy (G Tuer, 20-1); 2, Castle Tyrant; 3, Gaelic Warrior. 10 ran. Intermediate: 1, Greenmount Lad (P Cornforth, 9-2), 2, Mr Dick, 3, Slopping Gale. 8 ran Open Mdn (Div I pt I): 1, Kendor Pass (M Tate, 9-4), 2, High Intake; 3, Mature April. 10 ran. Open Mdn (Div I pt II): 1, Notarius (Mrs K Hargreave, 4-1); 2, Say Daphne; 3, Chummy's Last. 10 ran. Open Mdn (Div II pt I): 1, Dear Emily (S Swiers, 6-4 jf-fav); 2, Jepodene; 3, Ship The Builder. 10 ran. Open Mdn (Div II part II): 1, Kilkeaney Carr (S Whitaker, 5-2); 2, Smart Mover; 3, Dunford Bridge. 9 ran.

LAMERTON (Kilworthy): Hunt: 1, Anvil Corner (David Dennis, 25-1), 2, Catch The Cross, 3, The Ugly Duckling. 7 ran. Mdn I: 1, Flying Maria (C Heard, 7-1); 2, Eserie De Corea ; 3, Westcountry Lad. 14 ran. Mdn II: 1, Comedy Gayle (I Widdicombe, 8-1); 2, Music Of Mourne; 3, Corrib Haven. 14 ran. Ladies: 1, Secret Four (Miss T Cave, 11-10 fav); 2, Khattaf; 3, Perfect Stranger. 7 ran Confined. 1, Kelsore (R Nuttall, 6-4 fav); 2, Fiddlers Pike; 3, Greenwire. 12 ran Men's Open: 1, Spring Marathon (I, Jefford, 4-6 fav); 2, Nearly Splendid. Only 2 finished. 5 ran. Rest, 1, Mine's A Gin (Miss J Cumings, 7-1); 2, Ann's Ambition; 3, Royal Turn. 16 ran Intermediate: 1, Milled Oats (A Farrant, Evens fav); 2, Just Ben; 3, Kancleigh Boy; 3, Dark Reflection. 8 ran.

LLANGIBBY (Howick): Hunt: 1, Archer (M Harris, 1-4 fav); 2, Rusty Music. 2 ran Rest I: 1, French Stick (E Williams, 5-2 jf-fav); 2, Macksbee; 3, Spanish Rouge. 8 ran Rest II: 1, Guarena (Miss N Richards, 12-1), 2, A Farm Bar; 3, Colonel Frazer. 7 ran. Rest: 1, Zambrano (S Durack, 4-7 fav), 2, Saffron Moss; 3, Cosa Nostra. 7 ran. Confined: 1, Doubting Donna (M Harris, 4-1); 2, Ponciana; 3, Bit Of A Citizen. 12 ran. Men's Open: 1, Jack Sound (E Williams, 4-5 fav); 2, Al Frolic; 3, Adanac. 7 ran Ladies: 1, Ozzie Jones (Miss L Pearce, 5-1); 2, Rowing Report; 3, Coubure Tights. 10 ran. Mdn I: 1, Bel Lana (D S Jones, 4-1); 2, Malthouse Lad; 3, Lazzaretto. 15 ran. Mdn (Div II pt I): 1, Top Tor (T Vaughan, 9-4 fav), 2, I'm A Bute, 3, Pias-Hendy. 10 ran Mdn (Div II pt II): 1, Yarron King (I Johnson, 2-1 fav), 2, Belly Boy, 3, Bickerton Poacher. 9 ran.

MENDIP FARMERS (Castle Of Comfort): Hunt: 1, Double Thriller (R Treloggen, 1-5 fav), 2, Scriven Boy. Only 2 finished. 4 ran Open Mdn I: 1, The Bold Abbot (Miss S West, 6-1); 2, Military Man, 3, Fever Pitch. 12 ran Open Mdn II: 1, Jim Crow (P King, 12-1); 2, Rustic Lord, 3, Lindalighter. 9 ran Ladies: 1, Earthmover (Miss P Curling, 1-3 fav); 2, Nutcase; 3, Lile Peerage. 6 ran Men's Open: 1, Strong Chairman (T Mitchell, 4-5 fav); 2, Qualitair Memory ; 3, Southerly Buster. 5 ran Intermediate: 1, Front Cover (Miss S Vickery, Evens fav); 2, Highway Lad, 3, Basil Street. 7 ran. Rest: 1, Marion's Own (Miss P Curling, 6-1); 2, Kinesiology; 3, Tameimo. 8 ran.

VWH (Siddington): Hunt: 1, Diamond Wind (A Beedles, Evens fav), 2, Cavalero; 3, Miss Magic. 6 ran Confined: 1, Danbury Lad (Miss A Dare, 1-3 fav), 2, Knightly Argus; 3, Tompet. 8 ran. Men's Open: 1, Granville Grit (J Deutsch, 5-1), 2, Fair Crossing; 3, Bishops Island. 7 ran Ladies: 1, Sams Heritage (Miss A Dare, 4-6 fav), 2, Mountshannon, 3, Icky's Five. 5 ran Rest (Div I): 1, Count Ballos (P Howse, 9-4 jf-fav); 2, Rusty Fellow; 3, Cool Rascal. 10 ran. Maiden I: 1, Members Cruise (E Walker, 3-1 jf fav), 2, Toms Choice ; 3, Uncle Bruce. 10 ran Rest II: 1, Lets Twist Again (Julian Pritchard, 4-7 fav), 2, Tarry Awhile; 3, Colonel Fairfax. 10 ran Mdn (Div II): 1, Roark's Chukka (D Smith, 20-1); 2, Crown Jewel; 3, Jilly Wig. 7 ran

WILTON (Badbury Rings): Hunt: 1, Magic Mole (Miss M Hill, 9-4 jf-fav), 2, Elegant Sun; 3, Newman's Conquest. 4 ran Mdn: 1, Inner Snu (N Mitchell, 6-4 fav), 2, Barts Castle; 3, Dancing Barefoot. 6 ran. Men's Open: 1, Myverygoodfriend (S Cobden, 2-1); 2, Indian Knight. 2 ran Ladies: 1, Spacial (Miss M Hill, 11-8), 2, Pandia Shandy. 2 ran. Rest: 1, Tullykyne Belle (Miss D Stafford, 12-1), 2, Jack Sun, 3, Duke Of Lancaster. 6 ran Confined: 1, Alex Thuscombe (P Shaw, 3-1); 2, Chism; 3, Skinnhill. 8 ran.

LUDLOW

THUNDERER

2.10 SURANOM (nap) — 3.40 Fenwick
2.40 Fawley Flyer — 4.10 Quite A Man
3.10 First Crack — 4.40 Copper Coil

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 4.40 SAMMORELLO.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM — SIS

2.10 OFFICIALS NOVICES HURDLE (£2,159: 2m) (7 runners)

	PD-4128	LITTLE SHEFFORD 35 (F) (J Liddiard) M Meggenidge 5-11-4	S Curran	86
	04P-630	EUROLINK SHADOW 49F (D McCain) D McCain 5-10-12	D Walsh	–
	0	LUCKY ESCAPE 35 (G Mydderleon) T Forster 5-10-12	S Wynne	–
	0060P	HANUZAL 35 (B) (R Sayers) K Bridgwater 5-10-12	R Massey (3)	–
5	0U0020	SAAR 14 (B) (A White) R Baker 6-10-12	V Slattery	73
6	02	SURANOM 14 (Mrs A Lee) Mrs D Haine 5-10-12	J F Titley	69
7	PU-S0	WORTHY MEMORIES 45 (Mrs E Boosquet-Payne) Mrs M Jones 8-10-7	D Byrne	–

BETTING: 4-5 Suranom, 5-1 Worthy Memories, 7-1 Little Shefford, 8-1 Eurolink Shadow, Saaf. 16-1 others

1995: NO CORRESPONDING MEETING

FORM FOCUS

LITTLE SHEFFORD best effort beat Straan 2¼l in 13-runner novice handicap hurdle at Taunton (2m 1f, good to firm) Jan 97. EUROLINK SHADOW best effort about 15¼l 6th of 14 to Nordic Breeze in novice hurdle at Uttoxeter (2m, good to firm), Oct 96. SAAR 16l 7th of 13 to Siberian Music in novice handicap hurdle at Taunton (2m 1f, good). SURANOM 5l 2nd of 11 to Cuthill Hope in novice hurdle at Plumpton (2m 1f, good to soft). Selection: LITTLE SHEFFORD

2.40 NATIONAL RIDING WEEK NOVICES CHASE (£2,772: 3m) (5 runners)

1	132342	FAWLEY FLYER 5 (BF,F,G,S) (D Chown) W G M Turner 8-11-2	A Thornton	98
2	4P03P-P	PHILATELIC 5 (P De Wilde) R Alner 6-11-2	J Railton	–
3		STORMHILL WARRIOR (J Batchelor) J Batchelor 6-11-2	V Slattery	–
4	2-565	CAPTIVA BAY 19 (Miss M De Quincey) Mrs A Hewitt 8-10-11	S Wynne	80
5	00P0-05	LAMBRINI 25 (D McCain) D McCain 7-10-11	D Walsh	86

BETTING: 4-7 Fawley Flyer, 5-1 Lambrini, 6-1 Philatelic, 7-1 Captiva Bay, 20-1 Stormhill Warrior.

FORM FOCUS

FAWLEY FLYER 6l 2nd of 9 to Mr Snaggle in novice chase here (3m 4f, good to firm). PHILATELIC best effort 19l 3rd of 12 to Political Parade in novice hurdle at Wincanton (2m 6f, firm) May 96. CAPTIVA BAY 67l 5th of 14 to Caribou Gold in novice handicap chase at Bangor (3m 110yd, good to soft). LAMBRINI about 28l 5th of 10 to Telicherry in novice chase at Plumpton (2m 4f, good). Selection: FAWLEY FLYER

3.10 CLIVE PAVILION HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,159: 2m 5f 110yd) (5 runners)

1	33-P614	DRUM BATTLE 35 (CD,F) (D Chown) W G M Turner 5-11-10	A Thornton	98
2	3-51263	COLWALL 54 (CD,F) (Mrs Y Allsopp) Miss P Whittle 6-11-6	Mr R Thornton (5)	83
3	2P4323	FIRST CRACK 25 (CD,F,6,S) (D Pugh) F Jordan 12-11-1	S Wynne	89
4	P06P-50	BLATANT OUTBURST 12 (F) (Gulberts Feed) Miss S Wilton 7-10-11	R Johnson	91
5	3-4334P	ONE MORE DIME 18 (J Needham) J Needham 7-10-0	A Bates (5)	95

Long handicap: One More Dime 9-10

BETTING: 5-4 Drum Battle, 3-1 First Crack, 9-2 Colwall, 5-1 Blatant Outburst, 12-1 One More Dime.

FORM FOCUS

DRUM BATTLE best effort beat Tantara Lodge 7l in 8-runner novice hurdle over course and distance (good to firm) on penultimate start. COLWALL 10¾l 3rd of 2l to Model Express in novice handicap hurdle at Windsor (2m 6l 110yd, good to firm) FIRST CRACK best effort 29¾l 2nd of 8 to Scottish Wedding in handicap hurdle over course and distance (good to firm) on penultimate start. BLATANT OUTBURST 33l 9th of 17 to Northern Star in maiden hurdle at Huntingdon (3m 5f 110yd, good). Selection: FIRST CRACK

3.40 ANNUAL MEMBERS HANDICAP CHASE (£2,746: 2m) (7 runners)

1	06P-P52	MONDAY CLUB 9 (CD,F,G,S) (J Tuck) J Tuck 13-11-10	S McNeill	95
2	2U5U12	COOLTEEN HERO 10 (D,F,S) (J Cook) R Alner 7-10-13	W McFarland	89
3	1123114	SUPER SHARP 17 (D,F,G) (Mrs S Cockerell) H Oliver 9-10-12	Jacqui Oliver	98
4	3U4422U	FENWICK 14 (CD,BF,F,G,S) (A Pearn) R Hodges 10-10-6	T Dascombe (3)	91
5	413234	RICHU 9 (CD,F,S) (S Sefi) Mrs L Richards 9-10-2	M Richards	96
6	0-60F45	THE FENCE SHRINKER 44 (Straw Hat Golf Club) D McCain 6-10-0	S Wynne	–
7	3P-P5	QUARTER MARKER 20 (F) (P Lee) R Lee 9-10-0	Mrs C Ford	–

Long handicap: The Fence Shrinker 5-12, Quarter Marker 9-12

BETTING: 9-4 Monday Club, 3-1 Cooleen Hero, 7-2 Super Sharp, Fenwick, 6-1 Richu, 20-1 The Fence Shrinker, 25-1 Quarter Marker

FORM FOCUS

MONDAY CLUB 5l 2nd of 5 to Scottish Bambi in handicap chase at Hereford (2m, good to firm) 5mnths ago. COOLTEEN HERO best Purbeck Cavalier 6l in novice chase at Plumpton (2m, good to soft) on penultimate start. SUPER SHARP best effort beat Circulation 7l in 4-runner handicap chase at Windsor (2m, good to firm) on penultimate start. FENWICK 14¾l 2nd of 7 to Buckland Lad in handicap chase at Folkestone (2m soft) on penultimate start. RICHU 3l 2nd of 7 to Sister Rosza in handicap chase at Hereford (2m 3l, good to soft) Dec 96 Selection: FENWICK (nap)

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wins	Runs	%	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	%
R Hodges	8	44	18.2	J Titley	6	30	20.0
T Forster	12	80	15.0	R Massey	6	37	16.2
W G M Turner	5	37	13.5	M Richards	5	32	15.6
R Price	6	49	12.2	A Thornton	9	67	13.4
N Twiston-Davies	9	90	10.0	S McNeill	7	54	13.0
F Jordan	6	60	10.0	C Llewellyn	7	61	11.5

4.10 HUGHES CATERERS NOVICES HANDICAP CHASE (£2,759: 2m 4l) (6 runners)

1	BF-50P1	QUITE A MAN 6 (D,F,S) (W Everett) S Brookshaw 9-12-2 (bf)	C Maude	93
2	U20022	JOLLY BOAT 10 (F,G,S) (M Bevan) F Jordan 10-11-9	S Wynne	92
3	P-3P220	RYTON RUN 145 (D,F,G) (W Odell) Mrs S Odell 12-11-8	T J O'Sullivan	89
4	03F833	PRIZE MATCH 5 (S) (J Heathcock) J Tuck 8-10-9	S McNeill	95
5	OPPP-3P	AEOLIAN 48 (Mrs Y Allsopp) Miss P Whittle 5-10-9	Mr R Thornton (5)	90
6	0/3-PPPP	LITTLE ROWLEY 10 (J Judd) Mrs L Richards 8-10-1	M Richards	–

BETTING: 5-4 Jolly Boat, 3-1 Quite A Man, 5-1 Ryton Run, 6-1 Prize Match, 8-1 Aeolian, 25-1 Little Rowley

FORM FOCUS

QUITE A MAN best Heathcards Boy 5l in 10-runner novice handicap chase at Uttoxeter (2m 4f, good to firm). JOLLY BOAT 21¾l 2nd of 6 to Brogeen Lady in maiden chase at Folkestone (3m 110yd, good) RYTON RUN 3l 2nd of 4 to Tenyvestelgn in novice chase here (3m, firm) Oct 96. PRIZE MATCH about 5l 3rd of 9 to Eastern River in amateurs handicap chase at Leicester (2m 4f 110yd, good) on penultimate start. Selection: QUITE A MAN

4.40 RACEDAY STAFF NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,190: 3m 2l 110yd) (5 runners)

1	425153	COPPER COIL 9 (S) (R Lloyd) W G M Turner 7-12-0	J Power (7)	96
2	424-P33	WIN I DID 13 (H Wellstead) R Alner 7-11-7	Mr R Thornton (5)	88
3	312555	FASTINI GOLD 14 (C,F) (A Price) R Price 5-10-9	X Aizpuru (7)	83
4	6001P2	SAMMORELLO 9 (D,S) (Mrs S MacEchern) N Twiston-Davies 6-10-9	C Llewellyn	89
5	5030S6	AWESTRUCK 61F (B) (Worcester Race Club) B Preece 7-10-0	J Magford (7)	89

Long handicap: Awestruck 9-5

BETTING: 5-4 Copper Coil, 3-1 Sammorello, 4-1 Win I Did, 6-1 Fastini Gold, 12-1 Awestruck.

FORM FOCUS

COPPER COIL best effort beat Lough Tully 19l in 10-runner novice handicap hurdle at Plumpton (3m 110yd, good to soft) Dec 96. WIN I DID about 23l 3rd of 9 to Salcolino in maiden hurdle at Fontwell (3m 3l, good). FASTINI GOLD about 9½l 5th of 13 to Siberian Mystic in novice handicap hurdle at Taunton (2m 1f, good) SAMMORELLO 7l 2nd of 16 to Young Tess in novice handicap hurdle at Hereford (3m 2f, good to firm) with COPPER COIL (5th worse off) 15l 3rd. Selection: SAMMORELLO

LINGFIELD PARK

THUNDERER

2.20 Kingsdown Trix. 2.50 Here's To Howie. 3.20 Mendoza. 3.50 Sweet Supposin. 4.20 Rawi. 4.50 Sharp Imp.

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 3.50 SWEET SUPPOSIN (nap).

GOING: STANDARD — SIS
DRAW: 6F-1M, LOW NUMBERS BEST

2.20 CAMDEN ROAD SELLING HANDICAP (3-Y-O: £1,985: 1m 4f) (3 runners)

1	4651	MIRROR FOUR SPORT 10 (G) M Johnston 9-7	K Sked (7)	1
2	4614	KINOSDOWN TRIX 31 (C,G) G L Moore 9-5	R Perham	3
3	02-4	TRACKS OF MY TEARS 24 W G M Turner 8-13	T Sprake	2

5-4 Mirror Four Sport, 7-4 Kingsdown Trix, 5-2 Tracks Of My Tears

2.50 ST PIERS MEDIAN AUCTION STAKES (3-Y-O: £2,277: 1m) (5)

1	22-	ASSUME 250 J Hills 9-0	D Holland	5
2		FARLEY MOUNT Lord Huntingdon 9-0	D Harrison	4
3	348-	HERE'S TO HOWIE 135 R Hannon 9-0	Dane O'Neill	2
4		JUGGLER Lord Huntingdon 9-0	L Dettori	3
5	0-0	MASTER BOBBY 16 R Boss 9-0	M Tebbutt	1

8-11 Assume, 4-1 Here's To Howie, 5-1 Juggler, 6-1 Farley Mount, 20-1 Master Bobby

3.20 LINCOLNS MEAD HANDICAP (3-Y-O: £2,862: 1m) (8)

1	323-	CASTLES BURNING 103 C Cyzer 9-7	L Dettori	1
2	55-3	BABY JANE 16 R Guest 8-12	D Holland	3
3	1424	MENDOZA 23 (CD,G) D Murray Smith 8-8	J Bramhill (5)	4
4	600-	HIGHLAND PASS 135 G Thomer 8-8	Dane O'Neill	7
5	4333	SKELTON SOVEREIGN 23 (F) R Hollinshead 8-7	F Lynch (3)	2
6	5033	TALISMAN 23 S Dow 8-7	A Daly (5)	8
7	036	SOLAR DAWN 16 M Johnston 8-6	J Weaver	6
8	2243	ALVILDE 23 D Cosgrove 8-5	J Quinn	5

11-4 Baby Jane, 7-2 Skelton Sovereign, 9-2 Mendoza, 5-1 Castles Burning, 6-1 Talisman, 8-1 Solar Dawn, Alvilde.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: G Lewis, 18 winners from 74 runners, 24.3%, Lord Huntingdon, 42 from 192, 21.9%, M Johnston, 48 from 255, 18.8%, D Murray-Smith, 13 from 76, 17.1%; R Boss, 7 from 43, 16.3%; Miss G Kelleway, 21 from 133, 15.8%, G L Moore, 54 from 356, 15.2%; J Hills, 13 from 91, 14.3%.

JOCKEYS: L Dettori, 74 winners from 270 rides, 27.4%, D Holland, 35 from 141, 24.8%; J Weaver, 78 from 339, 23.0%; S Whitworth, 35 from 180, 19.4%; D Harrison, 32 from 236, 13.6%; Paul Eddery, 13 from 97, 13.4%; A Culrane, 6 from 45, 13.3%.

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Hexham: 3.30 Boston Man. Ludlow: 2.10 Nanijzal

3.50 HAPPY BIRTHDAY DENISE HANDICAP (£4,269: 1m 2f) (10)

1	000-	KRISCLIFFE 170 (F) G Lewis 4-10-0	Paul Eddery	8
2	340-	BATTLE SPARK 261 C Cyzer 4-9-6	G Carter	4
3	2336	ROBELLION 11 (V,CD,F,G) D Arbuthnot 6-9-5	D Harrison	9
4	0153	TALLULAH BELLE 11 (CD,G) N Littmoden 4-9-3	T G McLaughlin	1
5	0-43	ETHBAAT 9 (F,G) M Heaton-Ellis 6-9-2	J Clark	7
6	1330	QUIET ARCH 11 (CD,G) W Muir 4-9-1	Dane O'Neill	3
7	4600	NO SPEECHES 43 (CD,G) S Dow 6-9-0	A Daly (5)	5
8	1054	SWEET SUPPOSIN 9 (V,CD,G) C Dwyer 6-8-12	L Dettori	10
9	0-01	ROMAN REEL 11 (CD,F,G) G L Moore 6-8-10	S Whitworth	2
10	00-0	RIVER RUN 23 (B,D,F,G) R Hollinshead 5-7-10	F Lynch (3)	6

7-2 Roman Reel, 4-1 Rebellion, 5-1 Tallulah Belle, 6-1 Ethbaat, 7-1 Twinsome, 8-1 Quiet Arch, Sweet Supposin, 10-1 others

4.20 HARE LANE LIMITED STAKES (£2,277: 7f) (9)

1	3401	BARBASON 25 (CD,G) G L Moore 5-9-6	Candy Morris	3
2	2154	HAWAII STORM 30 (CD,BF,G,5) D Arbuthnot 5-9-6	Kerry Baker (7)	6
3	5154	RAWI 20 (CD,BF,G) Miss G Kelleway 4-9-6	A Whelan (3)	1
4	4143	SPENCER'S REVENGE 11 (CD,F,G) P Butler 6-9-9	G Bardwell	8
5	34-8	BILLADDIE 16 (C,G) R Boss 4-9-6	M Tebbutt	9
6	000-	JOBIE 18J (G) R Phillips 7-9-6	L Dettori	7
7	6433	SUPERLAD 32 (D,F,G) J Bridger 5-9-3	A Daly (5)	4
8	4564	CHASETOWN FLYER 54 N Berry 3-8-5	R Perham	5
9	00-2	CHEVAL ROC 23 R Hannon 3-8-5	Dane O'Neill	2

3-1 Barbason, 7-2 Rawi, 4-1 Hawaii Storm, 5-1 Cheval Roc, 7-1 Spencer's Revenge, 8-1 Billaddie, 10-1 others

4.50 HOLLOW LANE HANDICAP (£3,518: 6f) (11)

1	5212	SQUIRE CORRIE 23 (CD,F,G) D Chapman 5-10-6	A Culrane	10
2	1323	APOLLO RED 23 (CD,F,G,S) G L Moore 5-9-13	Candy Morris	9
3	5-08	INTIAASH 11 (D,F,G) D Haydn Jones 5-9-10	T Williams	7
4	-533	WILL DO 10 M Meade 4-9-5	D Sweeney (5)	4
5	205-	WAYPOINT 103 (C,G) R Charlton 4-9-2	T Sprake	6
6	-311	ROFFEY SPARKEY 30 (CD,G) R Hannon 3-9-2	Dane O'Neill	5
7	2104	SHARP IMP 23 (B,CD,F,G) R Flower 7-9-2	L Dettori	8
8	500-	MELLIE NORTH 181 (G) G McCourt 4-8-10	R Studholme (7)	1
9	2662	ALJAZ 19 (D,G,S) Mrs G Kelleway 7-8-6	D Holland	11
10	5251	IVORY'S GRAB HIRE 11 (B,C,F,G) R Ivory 4-8-5	Martin Dwyer (3)	3
11	4153	JUSTINIANUS 11 (CD,G,5) J Bridger 5-7-10	A Daly (5)	2

4-1 Roffey Sparkey, 5-1 Squire Corrie, Ivory's Grab Hire, 6-1 Apollo Red, 7-1 Waypoint, 8-1 Sharp Imp, Aljaz, 10-1 others

Go Ballistic backed

GO BALLISTIC, fourth in the Cheltenham Gold Cup, leapt to the top of the Martell Grand National betting yesterday. Ladbrokes and William Hill made Go Ballistic 8-1 favourite from 10-1 after John O'Shea, the gelding's trainer, had confirmed that he will go to Aintree, where he has been set to carry 9st 8lb. But Lord Gyllene continues to head the market with Coral and the Tote.

HEXHAM

THUNDERER

2.00 Apollo's Daughter. 2.30 Southern Cross. 3.00 Jendee. 3.30 Enchanted Cottage. 4.00 Daring Past. 4.30 Duke Of Perth. 5.00 The Snow Bum.

GOING: GOOD — SIS
TOTE JACKPOT MEETING

2.00 BUCHANAN ALES CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,312: 2m) (8 runners)

101	3391	BALLELSEFAILS 18 (C,F,S) L Lungo 9-11-10	J Jardine (5)	87
102	FP50	HIGHLAND WAY 18 (CD,G) M Todhunter 9-11-1	C McCormack (5)	92
103	343-	FIERY SUN 322P (D,F,G,S) R Barr 12-11-0	N Horrocks (3)	–
104	3-36	MISS GREENYARDS 111 (D,BF,F,S) A Whillans 6-10-11	S Taylor	90
105	483P	COURT JOKER 19 (BF,6) H Alexander 5-10-11	R McGrath	91
106	5-P0	GALLARDINI 65 (D,S) B Rothwell 8-10-10	A Currie (7)	91
107	0U02	DIAMOND BEACH 13 G Moore 4-10-6	E Callaghan	95
108	1061	APOLLO'S DAUGHTER 11 (CD,F,G) J Goulding 9-10-4	F Leahy	89

3-1 Diamond Beach, 5-2 Apollo's Daughter, 3-1 Rallelsefails, 8-1 Miss Greenyards, 10-1 Highland Way, 12-1 Court Joker, 16-1 others

2.30 EUROPEAN BREEDERS FUND NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES HURDLE (Qualifier: £2,917: 2m) (20)

201	0P	BANNER YEAR 39 T Carr 6-11-0	N Smith	–
202	P	BELTINO 39 Mrs J Storey 6-11-0	Mr C Storey	–
203	1U45	BOLD STATEMENT 18 (G) G Moore 5-11-0	N Bentley	91
204	604	DONNE

Sun shines down on bright lights of future

By Michael Aylwin

SPORT IN SCHOOLS

SCHOOLDAYS are widely held to be the best days and, for those lucky enough to be involved, schools' day at Twickenham on Saturday would certainly qualify as one of the better ones.

With relatively little happening elsewhere, schoolboy rugby was last week granted a small window in the season through which to shine. The Rosslyn Park sevens was as big and successful as ever, and on Saturday Twickenham hosted three of the main schoolboy fixtures of the season: the *Daily Mail* under-15 and under-18 schools cup finals, and the international between the England schools 18 Group and their counterparts from France.

Twickenham was abuzz. The cumulative noise was a couple of semi-tones higher than usual, but the enthusiasm was unbridled. Brilliant pockets of uniformed colour decorated the crowd of 20,000.

Sedbergh, which has produced players at every representative level of England rugby this season, has attracted some of Great Britain's best schools to its ten-a-side tournament today and tomorrow. Durham, the beaten finalists in the Rosslyn Park sevens last week, join the likes of Llandovery and Edinburgh Academy for the competition, in the which the most successful team from each of the four pools goes forward to a separate competition.

as separate enclaves vied with each other during the two cup finals, before coming together for the international. "The girls in blue think the Kirkham XV are worth a try!" read one banner. The rugby thrilled. The sun shone. Schooldays sat fondly in the memory.

Yet, amid all the heady excitement, the benevolent gaze of those older and wiser issued forth from brows beginning to crease with concern. The game is now professional and that is already beginning to filter through to schools level. Scholarships are being set up and boys are being targeted. Michael Pearey, formerly president of the Rugby Football Union, now in charge of schools, is aware of the vital role that his department now plays.

"A lot of these boys understandably have stars in their eyes and hope that they will make hundreds of thousands of pounds in top-class rugby," he said. "We have got to make them realise that only a tiny minority will ever manage that and so a full and rounded education remains a priority for all of them."

Geoff Wappett, delighted after the England team that he coaches became the first this season to beat their French equivalents, 20-10, sounded similarly cautious notes. "It's very flattering for the boys, and their parents, too, when big clubs show interest, but I would like to see a code of practice established that would create order between clubs and the boys they are interested in," he said.

Wappett is concerned at the lack of a solid bridge between schools rugby and club rugby, and would like to see an intermediate league created involving the top schools and colt teams from the leading clubs. Pearey, meanwhile, sees a national "super league" for the top schools as inevitable.

The march of progress, then, is taking schools rugby with it. In my schooldays, not so long ago, there were no Gatorade bottles and shimmering shellsuits with school insignia emblazoned across them; not to mention the possibility of appearing at Twickenham in the final of a national competition.

This year the Gatorade-swigging finalists were RGS High Wycombe and Whitgift, in the juniors, and Colston's Collegiate and Kirkham Grammar School in the seniors. High Wycombe, for whom Nick Duncombe, the captain and scrum half, caught the eye, became the first school to retain the junior title, while Colston's became the first school to win the senior event three times in a row.

The rugby in both finals was exhilarating but contained a healthy number of mistakes and imperfections. The unfettered exuberance of those playing and those watching provided a spectacle high in flair and adventure, adding weight to the view that schooldays are indeed the best days.

CHARLIE BIBBY



Lee Pointing, right, of Bootle High School, takes the contest to Louis Cadman, the King Harold School boxer

Refusing to throw in the towel in pursuit of former glory

Ivo Tennant on the fight by boxing to halt a drastic decline at schools level

In 50 years of the schools' national boxing championships, not one fatality or serious injury has occurred. This, though, is the sport that has been expunged from the gymnasium through a concerted effort by headmasters, the British Medical Association, teacher training colleges and even physical education experts. It is, they say, too dangerous to have anything to do with the national curriculum.

Until now, perhaps. Who said this in support of bringing boxing back into the schools: "A number of chief constables hold the view that, if boys spent their evenings letting off steam in the gym, they would not be hitting old ladies over the head." Henry Cooper? A backbench Tory MP? No, the likely in-coming Labour Minister for Sport, Tom Pendry.

How politics has changed. It was certain Labour ministers and councillors who, in the 1960s, accelerated the decline of boxing in schools. A decade earlier, 53,000 boys between the ages of 12 and 18 attended the national championships finals one year at Wembley. At Aston Villa Leisure Centre, Birmingham, where on Saturday the fiftieth anniversary tournament was held, this figure had plummeted to 624.

The age-group had been narrowed to 12-16 and the standard was mixed, but the enthusiasm ... "The point is that the disciplines of boxing you learn at school — a training routine, stamina, courage — can be transferred into later life," Dudley Savill, the general secretary of the Schools Amateur Boxing Association (SABA), said.

"The British Medical Association has put forward propaganda successfully, but has not come up with any evidence which sticks on the amateur side of the sport. I want to get a dialogue going. In a climate in which there is a great deal of bullying, boxing should be given an opportunity again. Had it been more generally available, it could have had an effect on reducing crime figures."

The majority of the boys who reached the finals on Saturday were from working-class backgrounds. "There has been no attempt to maintain boxing in independent schools," Simon Kemp, of *Amateur Boxing News*, said. "That has affected the opportunities of talented boxers from poor backgrounds and brought the sport in universities to the point of extinction. Teacher training colleges, medical schools and the top independent boarding schools should be targeted to resume boxing."

Such a task is the responsibility of the Schools Commission, a newly formed subcommittee of the SABA. Its chairman is Jim Smart, who, as headmaster of Churchmead, a comprehensive in Datchet, introduced boxing four years ago. "Only one or two schools in the whole country box now, but, if we told children they would be doing so, they would run home to pick up as much gear as they could find," he said.

Twenty of Smart's 555 pupils box and five of them are (non-contact) girls. His aim is for 30 schools to take up the sport this year. "We have to start with non-contact boxing for 11-year-olds upwards," he said. "All the boys wear up-to-date headguards and we are looking at using heavier gloves. I am only prepared to have boxing at a school which has a properly qualified person in charge."

As for the boys, the pontificating of politicians and the anxieties of their teachers merely washes over them. Alexander Gibbens, 13, who attends a comprehensive in Bognor Regis, concurred with his father, a former Amateur Boxing Association divisional champion, that boxing makes for a less violent society. On Saturday he became the junior "A" champion. "Headguards?" he said. "I know they are supposed to protect you, but they narrow the target area. I don't think we should have them."

SPEEDWAY

Wigg leads Knights to Star Cup success

By Tony Hoare

IT WAS the result that nobody expected. A King's Lynn team, put together at the eleventh hour, travelled to Peterborough and pulled off an unexpected 49-41 victory in a Speedway Star Cup group match on Friday night.

Short of practice, because their stadium and track are not yet ready for action, King's Lynn thus became the first visiting team since 1994 to win at the Panthers' Alwalton track.

Peterborough finished second in the Premier League last season and expected to figure prominently in the Elite League championship race this year, led by Jason Crump, a British record signing from Poole for £35,000 last January. In contrast, King's Lynn have put together a side on a shoestring budget, with a mixture of loan riders and foreign assets recalled after the club's year out of action in 1996.

Top scorer for the Knights at the fast and narrow Peterborough circuit was Simon Wigg, a former world championship runner-up, who joined King's Lynn two weeks ago on loan from Bradford.

Wigg, 36, scored 13 points, despite racing with a broken rib suffered in practice at Oxford last Monday. "To go to Peterborough and win is brilliant, everyone is shocked about it," Wigg said.

"I'm very pleasantly surprised. Everybody was jumping up and down about how well Peterborough were doing and we've been there and beaten them. I don't think any of the supporters could believe it because they had gone to Peterborough with no expectations. We were a very happy bunch."

Meanwhile, Coventry's impressive start to the Speedway Star Cup stuttered over the weekend when they lost away to Belle Vue on Friday night and were held to a draw at home to Wolverhampton the next evening. Low scoring from Shane Bowes and Simon Cross, the second strings, left the Bees struggling against a consistent Wolverhampton team, but Greg Hancock, Coventry's top rider, continued his electric start to the season.

Hancock, the world No 3, has been beaten by an opponent just once in 20 races this season — and that was when he suffered carburettor trouble against Swindon while leading the heat.

Bradford confirmed their credentials as potential Elite League pacesetters with a comfortable 56-34 home victory over Swindon on Saturday. David Walsh, signed just last week to fill the reserve slot left after Todd Wiltshire was refused a work permit, topped the scorechart on his debut.

A manifesto designed to bring a smile to the face of sport

THE BUSINESS OF SPORT

Sport has always played a leading role in election campaigns, with politicians keen to claim some of the credit for the country's sporting prowess. This campaign has kicked off in familiar fashion with the main party leaders desperate to grab photo-opportunities with leading figures in sport.

The chances of any of the parties including some serious proposals in their manifestos to help develop the nation's sports, however, look minimal. Yet sport is more than a niche activity in the country. The Sports Council estimates that there are around 28 million regular participants in sports, supporting an industry that employs 450,000 people and raises several billion pounds in taxes. Add to that the millions who enjoy sport from the comfort of their armchairs and you have an instant that constituency politicians should find hard to resist.

The Times has got together with Richard Baldwin, a tax partner at Deloitte and Touche accountants, and the Central Council of Physical Recreation to produce its own manifesto for sport. The measures are reasonably simple and can all be achieved at no great cost; the tax measures are costed at little more than £100 million. Not only would they raise the country's sporting reputation, but also, with more leading events and participants at all levels, they could end up actually increasing the money that the Government receives from sport-related activities.

☐ **Tax:** A few simple tax changes would make a real difference to the country's ability to bid for top sporting events. Euro 96 was a genuinely successful tournament, raising more than £60 million for the Government, but other countries offer a more favourable VAT rate that may tempt future tournaments elsewhere. Reducing VAT on admissions would have saved the Euro 96 organisers around £5 million.

International sporting bodies and international events are also subject to corporation tax. Creating a more tax-friendly environment, by making corporation tax payments more coherent or even abolishing tax for sporting organisations, as in Australia, would make the United Kingdom more competitive.

☐ **Charity:** Local sports clubs are mostly run by volunteers on a non-profit basis. Yet, unlike the neighbouring amateur dramatics clubs, local sports clubs are not regarded as charities. Granting the clubs charitable status would enable them to become exempt from corporation tax on fund-raising and sponsorship income. The clubs would also be eligible for relief from business rates.

☐ **Lottery:** The lottery levy could be reduced from 12 per cent and some of the money channelled to assist youth sport, while unclaimed prize-money could also be given to charity rather than returned to the prize pool. Sporting organisations have greatly benefited from lottery grants but there are a few changes to the procedure which would improve the system, including a simplified application procedure for small grants.

☐ **Europe:** Sport has always been vital to Europe with clubs competing across the Continent long before the establishment of the EU, but there is no reference to sport in the Maastricht Treaty. Adding sport to the treaty would not only recognise its importance to the EU nations but also would allow leading sporting bodies to advise Europe on the consequences of new legislation for sport.

☐ **Playing fields:** There has been some recent action to try to stem the sell-off of playing fields, but the greatest help would be the repeal of regulations that encourage local authorities to dispose of their sites. Once recreation facilities are lost, they cannot be replaced, so obliging local authorites to research strategies for the future of playing fields should also help to ensure that sufficient playing fields exist for the next generation.

Alasdair Murray

BASKETBALL

Home-bred Sharks lack aggression

By Nicholas Harling

THE sight of four full England internationals representing one Budweiser League club is an usual one in this post-Bosman era.

Between them, Roger Huggins, Michael Payne, Ian McKeeney and Jason Swaine have contributed much to keep Sheffield Sharks in contention for the title, but Jim Brandon, their American coach, would love it if they showed a touch more aggression.

"Some of the England guys get a bit tentative," he said after the Sharks had defeated Worthing Bears 94-77. "Sometimes they have the habit of looking like choirboys. They are the types you would want to marry your daughter or your sister. I would prefer them to go into games with the attitude of 'I'll kick you in the teeth and I will buy you a drink afterwards'."

No kicks in the teeth were needed on Saturday, however, when the Sharks recovered from early arrears of 13-4 to stay among the leaders.

Voisie Winters led Sheffield with 33 points and Todd Cauthorn finished with 20. James Hamilton top-scored with 31 for the Bears, who were handicapped by the rare failure of Cleave Lewis, their player/coach, to score.

Newcastle Eagles virtually secured a place in the play-offs with their 86-76 win away to Crystal Palace, while, at Derby, where a play-off spot was at stake, the Storm gained a 98-95 success over Leicester Riders.

Young golfers prepare for Tour de Force

By Mel Webb

THE deadline has passed, and the line-ups for the Daihatsu Junior Golf Tour (JGT), being run in association with *The Times*, have been settled. There were more than 1,000 applications to join the tour and the huge entry has been distilled down to the best 216 players to compete on the three tours that will comprise the tournament.

It has not been easy for Colin Springate, the tournament director, to send a rejection slip to the hundreds of unlucky ones, but he can gain one consolation — the fact that he has had to disappoint so many players is an indicator of the popularity of the competition.

The Daihatsu tour has been created to give added impetus to the pioneering work put in over the past three years by Springate, an unassuming and enthusiastic chartered surveyor from Kent.

The tour is the progeny of a tournament that Springate inaugurated in 1994 in response to the difficulty being experienced by his son, Daniel, in getting enough competitive golf.

Daniel, then an eight-handicapper, found that as a member of a club with no organised junior section, he was getting little chance to compete against other players of a similar standard.

Springate Jr was between the devil and the deep blue sea — either getting beaten by contemporaries, who, for a variety of reasons, had unrealistically high handicaps, or finding himself just short of the standard required for selection for county teams and some of the stronger competitions. For Daniel and his peers, good and improving players that they were, the competitive outlook was not a rosy one.

Springate looked into his son's complaints and, having found them justified, responded by launching a tour for the best juniors in Kent. It was such a success that it expanded in 1995 and grew further in 1996. Now, with the involvement of Daihatsu, it is to take its biggest step forward yet. Springate was a part-time tournament director in the first three years, but has now been able to take on the job full-time.

There will be three tours — national, southern and northern, each of which will be contested by 72 players. The national circuit will comprise the best of the 1,000-plus entries, while the regional tours are designed to become feeders for the elite national competition. Even before the first ball is struck, the competition is set for expansion — next year Midland and Scottish tours will be added to the programme.

Patron of the organisation is David Leadbetter, who has become probably the best-known golf coach in the world since he rebuilt Nick Faldo's swing in the mid-Eighties. Leadbetter is characteristically playing a low-profile role in the tours, but his support has been of key importance to the success of Springate's branchild.

He became interested in Springate's scheme in the early days, when a Kent tour event went to Chart Hills, the European headquarters of Leadbetter's global teaching academies. He and Springate chatted and, before long, Leadbetter had become actively involved in the scheme.

"His support has been vital," Springate said. "He rings me regularly and we talk things over. He could not have given us more encouragement than he has. He is totally committed to the competition, and we think we're very lucky to have him with us."

There will be eight tournaments in both the northern and southern sections with players having to play in a minimum of six events, and ten in the national competition with a minimum commitment of seven appearances to produce end-of-season orders of merit. Dates have been chosen to avoid the leading amateur competitions and tournaments will be held during school holidays, bank holidays and weekends.

"We felt it was important to provide a cushion to allow players to miss the odd event if they have to and still have a chance to qualify," Springate said.

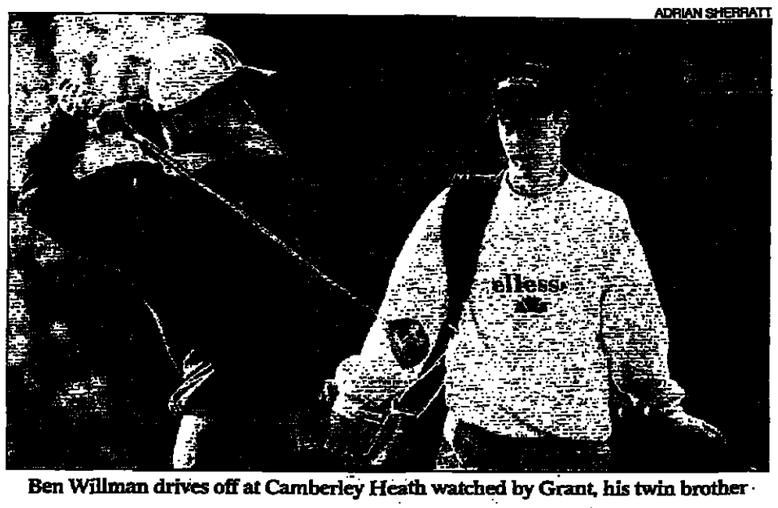
He will also be staging two invitational competitions for girls with an upper handicap limit of 18, and it is hoped that a tour will be launched for them next year.

The climax of the season will be the tournament of champions, in which the winners of all 26 events on the three tours will meet over 36 holes at Chart Hills on November 8 and 9. The winner there, plus the winner of the national tour, will receive coaching at Leadbetter's world headquarters at Lake Nona, Florida, and also have the opportunity to play some competitive golf in the United States.

The winner of that season-ending tournament will finish 1997 having trodden the fairways of some of the finest golf courses in the United Kingdom — Open Championship venues such as Turnberry, Royal Birkdale and Royal Lytham and St Annes are on the national tour rota.

The winners of the 1996 tours — Karl Johnson, Martin Lewis and Robert Oldaker — have entered again, and Johnson will be the first JGT champion to defend his title. Several clubs have multiple entries, and Camberley Heath, which has five, includes the 17-year-old twins, Ben and Grant Willman. The brothers are into filial togetherness right down to their handicaps — they both play off five.

ADRIAN SHERRATT



Ben Willman drives off at Camberley Heath watched by Grant, his twin brother

NETBALL

No fuss as England prevail

By a Correspondent

WHEN, on Friday afternoon, the Chelsea football team strode into Heathrow for a flight to Teesside, they were treated like royalty. In contrast, the England women's netball squad, bound for Belfast, were almost unnoticed.

Yet, while Chelsea lost their FA Carling Premiership match away to Middlesbrough, England prevailed 71-40 against Northern Ireland. Ironically, the England team included interchangeable goal attack and goal shooter — Tracey Neville, the sister of Gary and Phil, the Manchester United defenders, and Tracy Bartram, the wife of the Arsenal reserve goalkeeper.

Neville and Bartram each averaged shooting ratios of more than 80 per cent, but readily acknowledged the part played by Amanda Newton, who made some significant interceptions as a substitute goalkeeper. England fielded a mixture of under-21 and senior players. One newcomer, Olivia Murphy, impressed at centre.

The England Under-18 team enjoyed a similarly comprehensive victory over Northern Ireland, 62-31. Karen Gregg and Louise Moore excelled in the England attack, achieving strike rates of more than 80 per cent.

Scotland received a fright in Manchester on Saturday when they defeated Guernsey 34-29 after trailing with five minutes remaining.

YOUR HOME IS AT RISK IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON A MORTGAGE OR OTHER LOAN SECURED ON IT.

CRICKET: CRONJE PUNISHES AUSTRALIA'S ATTACK AFTER McGRATH TIRES

Fast bowlers maintain South Africa's control

FROM JACK BANNISTER IN CENTURION

CENTURION PARK (third day of five): Australia, with six second-innings wickets in hand, are 61 runs behind South Africa.

ALTHOUGH the Waugh twins took a little of the gloss from South Africa's best day of the series with a fourth-wicket partnership of 66 yesterday, a home victory now looks certain. As against West Indies earlier this year, Australia, having won the series, have been outplayed in the final Test. At 96 for four, they are still 61 behind.

Their last chance of leaving their hosts a sizeable fourth-innings target may well have disappeared when, just before the close, Mark Waugh was bowled via the inside edge by Par Symcox, the off spinner, when attempting a cover drive.

The Waughs had come together at 28 for three with South Africa's grip on the match close to a stranglehold after the fall of Mark Taylor and the two Matthews, Hayden and Elliott. The bounce was fearsome, especially from the pavilion end, but the Waughs somehow weathered the storm to claw back a little lost ground.

Australia had looked like getting right back into the game in the first 85 minutes of the day when Glen McGrath took three of the first four wickets to fall for only 22 runs. Symcox, the nightwatchman, was first to go, trying for a third successive four off Jason Gillespie. Jacques Kallis could only fend a brute of a delivery to Steve Waugh in the gully before Adam Bacher, having added only two singles from 62 balls, went leg-before to McGrath for 96, an innings that had occupied 7½ hours.

Richardson was out second ball, bowled rather unluckily as the ball rebounded from body to stumps and, at 262 for seven, South Africa were only 35 ahead.

It was then that the lack of a third pace bowler proved costly for Australia. McGrath, having bowled a marvellous spell of 14-8-23-3 in the morning session, was powerless to stop Lance Klusener and Hansie Cronje from adding 68 in 16 overs. Michael Bevan was hit out of the attack and Shane Warne returned his worst Test figures since 1992.

Gillespie came back to bowl Klusener, but Cronje crashed 42 of the 52 runs added for the last two wickets and in the course of his unbeaten 79 became the first South African to pass 2,000 Test runs since his country's readmission to international cricket.

Australia needed a good start, but lost three wickets in the first 13 overs. Hayden's big stride forward failed to save him when Schultz appealed for leg-before. He is one of three players going home before the one-day series — Elliott and Justin Langer are the others — and he may have walked out of international cricket in unlucky fashion.

Taylor got a good one from Donald, Richardson taking the catch, while Elliott, having left a gap between bat and pad, also fell to Donald, an inside edge going on to hit the middle stump.

South Africa were thus able to ram home the advantage won on Saturday, when Bacher and Brian McMillan built a solid platform with their second-wicket partnership of 112.

SCOREBOARD FROM CENTURION

AUSTRALIA: First Innings 227 (S R Waugh 67; B N Schultz 4 for 52)

Second Innings

*M A Taylor c Richardson b Donald	5
M L Hayden lbw b Schultz	0
M T G Elliott b Donald	12
M E Waugh b Symcox	42
S R Waugh not out	24
G S Blewett not out	0
Extras (lb 1, w 3, nb 9)	13
Total (4 wkts)	96

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-5, 2-10, 3-28, 4-94.

BOWLING: Donald 10-1-25-2; Schultz 9-2-23-1; Klusener 9-1-22-0, Symcox 4-1-12-1; Kallis 5-1-13-0

SOUTH AFRICA: First Innings

G Kirsten c Healy b McGrath	16
A M Bacher lbw b McGrath	96
B M McMillan c Hayden b M E Waugh	55
D J Cullinan b McGrath	47
P L Symcox c Blewett b Gillespie	16
J H Kallis c S R Waugh b McGrath	2
*W J Cronje not out	79
†D J Richardson b McGrath	0
L Klusener b Gillespie	30
A A Donald c Healy b Gillespie	8
B N Schultz c Healy b McGrath	2
Extras (b 11, lb 16, w 1, nb 5)	33
Total	384

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-26, 2-128, 3-228, 4-252, 5-255, 6-262, 7-262, 8-330, 9-367

BOWLING: McGrath 40.4-15-86-6, Gillespie 31-13-75-3; Blewett 5-0-19-0; Warne 36-11-89-0; Bevan 15-3-54-0; M E Waugh 7-1-34-1.

Umpires: C J Mitchley (South Africa) and M J Kitchen (England).



Cambridge, far side, start to increase the tempo in the women's Boat Race yesterday. Photograph: Hugh Routledge

Cambridge women show sixth sense

BY MIKE ROSEWELL ROWING CORRESPONDENT

CAMBRIDGE stretched their run of success in the women's Boat Race to six yesterday. Stroked by Kat Astley, Cambridge led from the start and, despite settling at a slightly lower rate, slowly developed a 1¼-length lead over the 2,000-metre Henley course to record their 35th win. For Sarah Winckless, their president, it brought a third Boat Race medal.

Oxford's overall tally remains at 17, despite having changed their coaching team almost annually since their last win, in 1991. In contrast, Cambridge have remained with their linchpins, Roger Silk and Ron Needs, who are always looking for improvement, even immediately after winning. "We will go harder next year," Needs said. "Every year we look back and say what we can do better. We get better organised every year. That is why we keep winning."

Oxford's new young coaching team, all Great Britain internationals, were unhappy to lose again, but at least there was a narrowing of the gap.

With Ben Hunt-Davis, a member of the Britain Olympic eight and their chief coach, the Oxford boat fought all the way and, although Cambridge repeated their 1996 success in the reserve race and the women's lightweight contest, both were closely-fought.

Blondie, the Cambridge reserves, looked set for a comfortable win at halfway, but Osiris, coached by Matthew Pinsent, who was guest of honour for the day, came back to a quarter of a length at the line, leaving Pinsent happy with his protegés.

Oxford's lightweight women, coached by Dot Blackie, a member of the Britain women's Olympic eight, led to halfway, but Cambridge came through for a canvas win. Roger Silk, their coach, said: "The lifts down the second half all worked. That's how I expected it to go."

As in 1996, Oxford's lightweight men were the university's only winners of the day, although this year it was not on a disqualification, as in 1996.

Interestingly, the Oxford lightweight men have stuck with the same coaching team, led by Chris Jones, since 1993, and have won three times.

Stormy test in store for ICC teams

FROM DAVID TOWNSEND IN KUALA LUMPUR

A THUNDERSTORM that disrupted the official opening of the International Cricket Council (ICC) Trophy in Malaysia gave an early warning that this World Cup qualifying tournament is at the mercy of the weather.

Kenya, Bangladesh, Holland and a handful of other contenders for the three tickets to the finals in England in 1999 are worried that unpredictable afternoon showers in Kuala Lumpur could have a hand in some results.

All the 50-over matches before the semi-finals are scheduled for one day only and the next couple of weeks could prove an extended test of rules for rain-interrupted matches. Malaysian grounds do drain very quickly, so, if the rain comes early enough, a new target will be set for the chasing team. If 20 overs of the second innings cannot be played, however, the points will be shared.

At the last ICC Trophy, in Kenya, there were no such rules, but, with two days to complete games, only one match was lost to rain despite a six-week drought breaking on the eve of the tournament.

If rain does not stop play, then most teams, it seems, can point to other areas of concern; the intense heat and humidity will prevent anyone from bowling much more than a five-over spell, the matting wickets will be too slow or variable, and the outfields impossible for fielders.

Only Ireland have adopted a wholly positive approach with Mike Hendrick, their coach, informing his enthusiastic and very fit team: "If you tell yourself you cannot bowl five overs, you won't."

Ireland, who are drawn in the same opening group as Kenya, need to beat a strong United States team to ensure their passage into the last eight. After winning the triple crown and European championship in 1996, they are confident, but would have preferred to swop places with Scotland, who are in the easiest of the opening groups with Bermuda, Hong Kong, Papua New Guinea and Italy.

Scotland have not enjoyed their first week in the Malaysian capital, losing all their warm-up matches and clearly missing George Reifer, the injured all-rounder

Holland will expect to rebook their place in the World Cup along with Kenya, but the United Arab Emirates, the defending champions, have suffered from a change in the ICC residential qualification rule that now insists on seven "native-born" or "residing citizens" in every team. Without all their imports from the subcontinent, they might struggle to get past the opening round.

☐ A meeting in Kuala Lumpur yesterday agreed to set up a three-year rotating presidency for the ICC. A nominee from India will replace Sir Clyde Walcott, the outgoing chairman, after the annual conference in June, to be followed by an Australian in 2000.

ICC TROPHY 1997

PRELIMINARY ROUND GROUPS: Group A: Kenya, United States, Ireland, Gibraltar, Singapore, Israel. Group B: Bangladesh, United Arab Emirates, Malaysia, Denmark, West Africa, Argentina. Group C: Holland, Canada, Namibia, Fiji, East and Central Africa. Group D: Bermuda, Scotland, Hong Kong, Papua New Guinea, Italy

SECOND ROUND GROUPS: Group E: Group A winners, group D winners, group B runners-up, group C runners-up. Group F: Group B winners, group C winners, group A runners-up, group D runners-up.

FIXTURES: Today: Bermuda v Italy; Malaysia v Denmark; Holland v East and Central Africa; Bangladesh v Argentina; United States v Singapore; UAE v West Africa; Ireland v Gibraltar; Kenya v Israel. Tomorrow: Holland v Namibia; United States v Gibraltar; Malaysia v Argentina; Canada v Fiji; Bangladesh v West Africa; Kenya v Singapore; Bermuda v Hong Kong; Scotland v Papua New Guinea. Mar 26: Scotland v Hong Kong, Ireland v Israel; UAE v Denmark; Fiji v East and Central Africa; Papua New Guinea v Italy; Canada v Namibia. Mar 27: United States v Ireland; West Africa v Argentina; Kenya v Gibraltar; UAE v Malaysia; Bangladesh v Denmark; Singapore v Israel. Mar 28: Gibraltar v Singapore; Bermuda v Papua New Guinea; Namibia v East and Central Africa; Hong Kong v Italy; Holland v Fiji; Malaysia v West Africa. Mar 29: Hong Kong v Papua New Guinea; Kenya v Ireland; Namibia v Fiji; Scotland v Italy; Denmark v Argentina; United States v Israel; Canada v East and Central Africa; Bangladesh v UAE. Mar 30: Bangladesh v Malaysia; Holland v Canada; Denmark v West Africa; Kenya v United States; Gibraltar v Israel; Bermuda v Scotland; UAE v Argentina; Ireland v Singapore. Apr 1: Second round matches begin

SEMI-FINALS: April 5 and 6

FINAL: April 12

HOCKEY: NO ROOM AT THE TOP AS SLOUGH TURN UP THE TITLE PRESSURE

Smith hat-trick puts paid to Trojans

THE competition at the top of the women's premier division continued to intensify as Slough made sure that they stayed in the title hunt by completing a weekend double to move within one point of Ipswich, the leaders.

A 4-1 win over Sutton Coldfield on Saturday and another three points after a win by the same scoreline against Trojans has ensured that the final outcome will be decided in the last two matches of the season.

Jane Smith, the England forward, struck twice in the first half to give Slough a 2-0 lead over Trojans. Although Monita Suter hit back, Smith, completing her hat-trick, and Karen Brown, with a goal in the 43rd minute, gave Slough the points.

Clifton, three points adrift of Slough in third place, remain in contention for their first league honours. Tammy Miller gave them a fourteenth-minute lead against Trojans and Louise Hipkins added the second for a 2-0 victory.

At the other end of the table, Hightown, the champions, eased their relegation fears when Maggie Souyave and Julie Aspin scored in their 2-1 defeat of Doncaster. However, with only five points separating the bottom five clubs, the fight is still on for survival in the top flight.

One issue was definitely resolved when unbeaten Loughborough Students secured their promotion to the first division with a 3-1 win over Exmouth, thanks to two goals from Fiona Greenham and a third by Kate Thomas.

England had something to savour when Russell Garcia, their captain, received the best player award at the five-nation tournament in Karachi, which ended yesterday. Germany won the gold medal, with Holland taking silver and Pakistan bronze. England, who finished last in the pool series, ended their tour on a winning note, beating a young Pakistani XI 3-0 in an exhibition match.

In the final, Germany proved too strong for Holland, the Olympic champions, to complete a 3-1 victory. Holland, depleted by injuries, went ahead through Eikleboom, but Streich equalised for Germany and then Michel put them in front. Domke finally made the match safe for Germany in the 64th minute.

GUIDE TO THE WEEK AHEAD

TODAY

FOOTBALL

kick-off 7.30 unless stated

FA Carling Premiership

Arsenal v Liverpool (8.0)
Middlesbrough v Nottm Forest (7.45)

Spalding Cup
Semi-final, second leg

Kidderminster (2) v Farnborough (2) (7.45)

UNIBOND LEAGUE: Premier division: Hyde v Guiseley.

ICIS LEAGUE: Premier division: Dagenham and Redbridge v Aylesbury (7.45)

SCREWFIX DIRECT LEAGUE: Premier division: Westbury v Chippenham

ESSEX SENIOR LEAGUE: Premier division: Ilford v Brentwood.

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Swansea v Bristol Rovers (2.0), Swindon v Millwall (2.0), Tottenham v Chelsea (at St Albans FC).

PONTIN'S LEAGUE: Premier division: Postponed, Stoke v Nottingham Forest. First division: Leicester v Wolverhampton (7.0) Second division: Shrewsbury v Bradford (7.0) Stockport v Hull (at Witton Albion FC 6.45). League Cup: Quarter-finals: Huddersfield v Walsall (7.0); York v Wrexham (7.0).

FA YOUTH CUP: Fifth round: Blackburn v Norwich

OTHER SPORT

BASKETBALL: All-star game (at Sheffield Arena, 7.30)

RACING: Lingfield Park (AW, 2.20). Hexham (2.0); Ludlow (2.10)

SNOOKER: Embassy world championship final qualifiers (at Telford)

SPEEDWAY: Speedway Star Cup: Wolverhampton v Swindon (7.30) Individual: Richard Green benefit (at Exeter, 7.30)

TOMORROW

RUGBY UNION

CLUB MATCH: Bath v Army (7.15)

OTHER SPORT

BOXING: Commonwealth cruiserweight championship: Chris Okoh (Croydon, holder) v Denzil Browne (Leeds) (at Lewisham Theatre, Catford)

RACING: Newcastle (2.35), Sandown Park (2.15), Southwell (2.25)

SNOOKER: Embassy world championship final qualifiers (at Telford)

SPEEDWAY: East Coast Cup: Hull v Skegness (7.30).

WEDNESDAY

RUGBY UNION

COURAGE CLUBS CHAMPIONSHIP: First division: Wasps v London Irish (at Loftus Road, 7.45) Postponed: Sale v Saracens Fourth division north: Nuneaton v Worcester (7.30)

CLUB MATCHES: Lydney v Royal Navy (7.0), Moseley v RAF (7.30)

OTHER SPORT

BASKETBALL: Budweiser League: Manchester v London (7.0) Newcastle v Birmingham (7.30) Leicester v Worthing (8.0), Crystal Palace v Thames Valley (8.0)

RACING: Catterick Bridge (2.20) Folkestone (2.10) Ascot (2.0)

SPEEDWAY: Challenge: Long Eaton v Stoke (7.45)

SQUASH: Women's international match: England v Australia (at Chingford) Super Series finals (at Hatfield)

THURSDAY

RUGBY UNION

COURAGE CLUBS CHAMPIONSHIP: First division: West Hartlepool v Bath (7.30)

OTHER SPORT

BASKETBALL: Budweiser League: Thames Valley v Leicester (8.0)

BOXING: World Boxing Organisation and International Boxing Federation intercontinental light-welterweight championships: Jon Thaxton (Norwich, holder) v Alex McDowall (Renfrew) (at Norwich Sports Village)

RACING: Leicester (2.10); Lingfield Park (AW, 2.30); Musselburgh (2.20)

SNOOKER: British Open (at Plymouth Pavilions)

FRIDAY

RUGBY UNION

COURAGE CLUBS CHAMPIONSHIP: Fourth division south: Newbury v Tabard (7.0)

CLUB MATCH: Redruth v St Mary's Hospital (7.0)

RUGBY LEAGUE

Kick-off 7.0 unless stated

STONES SUPER LEAGUE: Halifax v Castleford (7.30), London v Paris, Saint-Germain, Salford v Oldham, Sheffield v Warrington (7.30) Wigan v St Helens First division: Featherstone v Wakefield (7.30) Huddersfield v Dewsbury (7.30) Hull v Hull KR (3.15)' Widnes v Swinton Workington v Whitehaven Second division: Batley v York (7.30), Carlisle v Barrow, Prescot v Lancashire Lynx, Rochdale v Leigh

OTHER SPORT

HOCKEY: Men's European Cup Winners' Cup (at Reading)

SPEEDWAY: Speedway Star Cup: Belle Vue v Wolverhampton (7.30) Ipswich v King's Lynn (2.30), Peterborough v Eastbourne (7.30) Elite League Challenge: Poole v Swindon (3.30) Premier League Individual: Essex championship (at Arena Essex, 3.0) Premier League Challenge: Oxford v Reading (7.30), Sheffield v Long Eaton (7.45) Amateur League: Arrigan Angels v Western Warriors (Exeter and Newport) (at Ipswich, 4.0)

SATURDAY

RUGBY UNION

kick-off 3.0 unless stated

PILKINGTON CUP: Semi-finals: Gloucester v Leicester; Sale v Harlequins (2.15)

COURAGE CLUBS CHAMPIONSHIP: First division: Orrell v Northampton. Second division: Newcastle v Richmond, Rugby v London Scottish, Wakefield v Moseley. Third division: Liverpool St Helens v Exeter, London Welsh v Fylde, Lydney v Clifton, Reading v Walsall, Redruth v Morley; Rosslyn Park v Otley. Fourth division north: Aspatria v Birmingham Solihull, Hereford v Kendal, Sandal v Lichfield, Stoke-on-Trent v Manchester, Stourbridge v Preston Grasshoppers. Fourth division south: Askeans v High Wycombe, Cheltenham v Barking, Henley v Weston-super-Mare, North Walsham v Berry Hill, Plymouth v Charlton Park.

SWALEC CUP: Quarter-finals: Ebbw Vale v Bridgend (2.30), Neath v Swansea (2.30)

WELSH LEAGUE: First division: Llanelli v Pontypridd (2.30), Newbridge v Newport (2.30)

TENNENTS PREMIERSHIP: Second division: Boggal v Glasgow Academicals, West of Scotland v Dundee HSFP. Third division: Hillhead v Peebles

INSURANCE CORPORATION LEAGUE: First division: Blackrock College v St Mary's College (2.30), Dungannon v Shannon (2.30), Old Belvedere v Lansdowne (2.30), Old Crescent v Instonians (2.30), Old Wesley v Ballymena (2.30), Terenure College v Cork Constitution (2.30), Young Munster v Garryowen (2.30). Second division: Clontarf v Dolphin (2.30), DLSP v Highfield (2.30), Derry v UCC (2.30); Greystones v Monkstown (2.30), Malone v Skerries (2.30), Sunday's Well v Bective Rangers (2.30), Wanderers v NIFC (2.30)

RUGBY LEAGUE

SILK CUT CHALLENGE CUP: Semi-final: Bradford v Leeds (at Huddersfield, 2.0)

OTHER SPORT

BASKETBALL: Budweiser League: Derby v Worthing (7.30), Leicester v London (7.30), Birmingham v Leopards (7.30), Hemel and Watford v Newcastle (7.30), Thames Valley v Chester (8.0)

BOWLS: Masters singles (at Dundee)

HOCKEY: Men's European Cup Winners' Cup (at Reading)

ICE HOCKEY: BT Connections play-off championship. Final: Nottingham v Sheffield (at Nynex Arena, Manchester, 8.15)

RACING: Haydock Park (1.15), Kempton Park (1.40), Wolverhampton (AW, 7.0); Carlisle (2.05), Newton Abbot (1.30), Plumpton (2.25), Towcester (2.20)

ROWING: University Boat Race: Oxford v Cambridge (Putney to Mortlake, 4.10)

SNOOKER: British Open (at Plymouth Pavilions)

SPEEDWAY: Elite League: Coventry v Eastbourne (7.30) Speedway Star Cup: Bradford v Wolverhampton (7.30), Swindon v Belle Vue (7.30) Premier League Challenge: Berwick v Newcastle (7.0), Stoke v Long Eaton (7.30)

SUNDAY

RUGBY UNION

COURAGE CLUBS CHAMPIONSHIP: First division: Saracens v West Hartlepool (3.0)

RUGBY LEAGUE

FIRST DIVISION: Swinton v Keighley (3.0)

OTHER SPORT

BASKETBALL: Budweiser League: Chester v Birmingham (6.0), Sheffield v Thames Valley (6.30), London v Crystal Palace (5.0), Leopards v Derby (5.0)

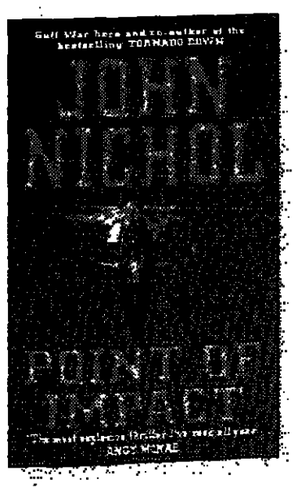
HOCKEY: Men's European Cup Winners' Cup (at Reading)

SNOOKER: British Open (at Plymouth Pavilions)

SPEEDWAY: Speedway Star Cup: Eastbourne v Poole (3.30) Premier League Challenge: Glasgow v Edinburgh (6.30), Newcastle v Berwick (6.30)

This week's football, page 30

'Brilliant - you can smell the hot oil, the sweat and the fear'
DAILY TELEGRAPH



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LEGAL NOTICES

TORONTO, GREY AND BRUCE RAILWAY COMPANY
NOTICE TO AGENTS FOR AND/OR HOLDERS OF 4% FIRST MORTGAGE BONDS DUE 2883
(Bearer form)
CHANGE OF REGISTRAR AND PAYING AGENT

Effective March 12, 1997, The Trust Company of Bank of Montreal began carrying out all our Registrar, Paying Agent and related services, including payment of interest coupons for the bearer form 4% First Mortgage Bonds due 2883.

All inquiries concerning payments of interest coupons of said First Mortgage Bonds should be mailed or delivered to The Trust Company of Bank of Montreal at the following address:

The Trust Company of Bank of Montreal,
c/o The Royal Bank of Scotland plc,
New Issues Dept.
P.O. Box 670, 1st Floor
5-10 Great Tower Street
London EC3R 5ER

Effective the same date, all other correspondence relating to the business of Toronto, Grey and Bruce Railway Company should be addressed as follows:

Secretary, Toronto, Grey & Bruce Railway Company, Suite 2000, 401 - 9th Avenue S.W., Calgary, Alberta, T2P 4Z4
Office of the Secretary
Toronto, Grey & Bruce Railway Company

ONTARIO AND QUEBEC RAILWAY COMPANY
NOTICE TO HOLDERS OF 5% PERMANENT DEBENTURE STOCK - CHANGE OF TRANSFER AGENT AND REGISTRAR

Effective March 12, 1997, The Trust Company of Bank of Montreal began carrying out all our Transfer Agent, Registrar and related services, including interest payments, for the 5% Permanent Debenture Stock (PDS).

Facilities to transfer the PDS are being provided by The Trust Company of Bank of Montreal through its agent, The Royal Bank of Scotland plc in London, England. All inquiries concerning accounts of holders of PDS should be addressed to, and certificates for PDS which are to be transferred should be mailed or delivered to, The Trust Company of Bank of Montreal at the following address:

The Trust Company of Bank of Montreal,
c/o The Royal Bank of Scotland plc,
New Issues Dept.
P.O. Box 670, 1st Floor
5-10 Great Tower Street
London EC3R 5ER

Effective the same date, all other correspondence relating to the business of Ontario and Quebec Railway Company should be addressed as follows:

Secretary, Ontario and Quebec Railway Company
Suite 2000, 401 - 9th Avenue S.W.
Calgary, Alberta, T2P 4Z4
Office of the Secretary
Ontario and Quebec Railway Company

Canadian Pacific Railway
NOTICE TO HOLDERS OF 4% CONSOLIDATED DEBENTURE STOCK - (Sterling denomination)
CHANGE OF TRANSFER AGENT AND REGISTRAR

Effective March 12, 1997, The Trust Company of Bank of Montreal began carrying out all our Transfer Agent, Registrar and related services, including interest payments, for the sterling-denominated 4% Consolidated Debenture Stock (CDS).

Facilities to transfer the CDS are being provided by The Trust Company of Bank of Montreal through its agent, The Royal Bank of Scotland plc in London, England. All inquiries concerning accounts of holders of CDS should be addressed to, and certificates for CDS which are to be transferred should be mailed or delivered to, The Trust Company of Bank of Montreal at the following address:

The Trust Company of Bank of Montreal,
c/o The Royal Bank of Scotland plc
New Issues Dept, P.O. Box 670,
1st Floor, 5-10 Great Tower Street
London EC3R 5ER

Effective immediately, all other correspondence relating to the business of Canadian Pacific Railway Company should be addressed as follows: Vice-President Legal Services and Corporate Secretary, Canadian Pacific Railway Company, Suite 500, 401 - 9th Avenue S.W., Calgary, Alberta, T2P 4Z4
Office of the Corporate Secretary, Canadian Pacific Railway Company

ST. LAWRENCE AND OTTAWA RAILWAY COMPANY
NOTICE TO AGENTS FOR AND/OR HOLDERS OF 4% FIRST MORTGAGE BONDS DUE 2880
(Bearer form)
CHANGE OF REGISTRAR AND PAYING AGENT

Effective March 12, 1997, The Trust Company of Bank of Montreal began carrying out all our Registrar, Paying Agent and related services, including payment of interest coupons for the bearer form 4% First Mortgage Bonds due 2880.

All inquiries concerning payments of interest coupons of said First Mortgage Bonds should be mailed or delivered to The Trust Company of Bank of Montreal at the following address:

The Trust Company of Bank of Montreal,
c/o The Royal Bank of Scotland plc, New Issues Dept.
P.O. Box 670, 1st Floor
5-10 Great Tower Street
London EC3R 5ER

Effective the same date, all other correspondence relating to the business of St. Lawrence and Ottawa Railway Company should be addressed as follows:

Secretary, St. Lawrence and Ottawa Railway Company
Suite 2000, 401 - 9th Avenue S.W.,
Calgary, Alberta
T2P 4Z4
Office of the Secretary
St Lawrence and Ottawa Railway Company

THE CALGARY AND EDMONTON RAILWAY COMPANY
NOTICE TO HOLDERS OF 4% CONSOLIDATED DEBENTURE STOCK
CHANGE OF TRANSFER AGENT AND REGISTRAR

Effective March 12, 1997, The Trust Company of Bank of Montreal began carrying out all our Transfer Agent, Registrar and related services, including payment of interest coupons for the bearer form 4% Consolidated Debenture Stock (CDS).

Facilities to transfer the CDS are being provided by The Trust Company of Bank of Montreal through its agent, The Royal Bank of Scotland plc in London, England.

All inquiries concerning accounts of holders of CDS should be addressed to, and certificates for CDS which are to be transferred should be mailed or delivered to, The Trust Company of Bank of Montreal at the following address:

The Trust Company of Bank of Montreal,
c/o The Royal Bank of Scotland plc
New Issues Dept, P.O. Box 670,
1st Floor, 5-10 Great Tower Street
London EC3R 5ER

Effective the same date, all other correspondence relating to the business of The Calgary and Edmonton Railway Company should be addressed as follows: Secretary, The Calgary and Edmonton Railway Company
Suite 2000, 401 - 9th Avenue S.W.,
Calgary, Alberta
T2P 4Z4
Office of the Secretary, The Calgary and Edmonton Railway Company

Sales Direct (UK) Limited
THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986 that a Meeting of the Creditors of the above-named Company will be held at Sherlock House, 7 Kenrick Place, London, W1H 3FF on 8 April 1997 at 12 noon for the purposes mentioned in Section 99 to 101 of the said Act. Creditors wishing to vote at the Meeting must lodge with the proxy together with a full statement of account at the registered office - Sherlock House, 7 Kenrick Place, London, W1H 3FF not later than 12 noon on 7 April 1997. For the purposes of voting, a secured creditor is required (unless he surrenders his security) to lodge at Sherlock House, 7 Kenrick Place, London, W1H 3FF before the meeting, a statement giving particulars of his security, the date when it was given and the value at which it is assessed. Notice is further given that a list of the names and addresses of the Company's creditors may be inspected, free of charge, at Sherlock House, 7 Kenrick Place, London, W1H 3FF between 10.00am and 4.00pm on the two business days preceding the date of the meeting stated above.
Dated 19 March 1997
by Order of the Board
C.E.Evans - Director

Chusid Lander Limited
t/a Citysold Headway
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a meeting of the creditors of the above named company will be held at the offices of Leonard Curtis & Co, situated at 20 Eastbourne Terrace, (2nd Floor),, London W2 6LF, on 4th April 1997 at 12.00 for the purposes provided in Section 98 et seq.
It is not intended to propose any resolutions at the meeting concerning Liquidators remuneration, however the meeting may receive information about, or be called upon to approve, the costs of preparing the statement of affairs and convening the meeting.
A list of names and addresses of the above company's creditors can be inspected at the offices of Leonard Curtis & Co, PO Box 553, 30 Eastbourne Terrace, (2nd Floor), London W2 6LF, between the hours of 10.00am to 4.00pm on the two business days preceding the Meeting of Creditors.
DATED THIS 18th March 1997
John Stuart Townend - Director

No. 00852 of 1990
IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
QUEENS BENCH DIVISION
PLYMOUTH DISTRICT REGISTRY
BETWEEN
EXETER TRUST LIMITED (now EXETER BANK LIMITED)
Plaintiff
- and -
PETER KENT AND GEOFFREY GORDON INGRAM Defendants
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a statutory demand for a liquidated sum payable immediately following judgement on 10th December 1990 in the sum of £34,280.36 plus interest making a total of £48,946.06 as at 21st March 1997, with interest accruing thereafter at a daily rate of £4.54, is being served on 21st March 1997 against Mr Geoffrey Gordon Ingram whose last known address is Heron Cottage, Ways y Caing, Menai Bridge, Gwynedd. He is now understood to be resident in France. The said statutory demand will be furnished to Mr Geoffrey Ingram on his requiring the same by the undermentioned Solicitors.
Dated this 21st day of March 1997.
Tozers, Solicitors, Broadwalk House, Southernhay West, Exeter EX1 1UA
Tel: (01392) 424444
Fax: (01392) 270517
Ref: FT.PWE.3479-418

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE RECEIVERS
Max Sound & Vision Limited
Registered number: 3259401.
Former company name: Trailblond Limited, Nature of business: Retail of electrical goods. Trade classification: 21.
Date of appointment of administrative receivers: 12th March 1997. Name of person appointing the administrative receivers: Midland Bank Plc.
C.C.S. MacMillan, FCA and D.J. Power, FCA, Joint Administrative Receivers, (office holder no's 6000 and 6006) Leonard Curtis & Partners, Third Floor, Peter House, Oxford Street, Manchester M1 5AN.

The Insolvency Act 1986
COVERDUTY LIMITED T/A SHIELD RECRUITMENT
(In Liquidation)
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that P S Dunn of Latham Crossley & Davis 7 Kenrick Place, London W1H 3FF was appointed Liquidator of the said Company by the Members and Creditors on 14th March 1997.
Dated this 14th March 1997
P S DUNN, Liquidator

SMI (Overseas) Limited
- In Administrative Receivership
Registered Number: 1845061
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 48 of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a general meeting of the unsecured creditors of the above-named company will be held at Baker Street Suite, Sherlock Holmes Hotel, 108 Baker Street, London W1M 2LJ on 3 April 1997 at 1215 hrs for the purpose of having a report laid before the meeting and of hearing any explanation that may be given by the Administrative Receivers. Creditors whose claims are wholly secured are not entitled to attend or be represented.
Please note that a creditor is entitled to vote only if he has delivered to the Administrative Receivers at BDO Stoy Hayward, 8 Baker Street, London, W1M 1DA, not later than 1200 hrs on 2 April 1997 details in writing of the debt claimed to be due from the company, and the claim has been duly admitted under the provisions of The Insolvency Rules 1986 and there has been lodged with the Administrative Receivers any proxy which the creditor intends to be used on his behalf.
R Hocking
Joint Administrative Receiver

INVERLAT INTERNATIONAL LIMITED
(IN MEMBERS' VOLUNTARY LIQUIDATION)
COMPANY NUMBER: 2744310
NOTICE TO CREDITORS: On 5 March 1997, the above company was placed into Members' Voluntary Liquidation and Martin Fishman of PO Box 55, 1 Surrey Street, London WC2R 2NT was appointed Liquidator by the Members. The Liquidator gives notice pursuant to Rule 4.182A of the Insolvency Rules 1986 that the creditors of the company must send details, in writing, of any claim against the company to Martin Fishman, PO Box 55, 1 Surrey Street, London WC2R 2NT by 11 April 1997. The Liquidator also gives notice under the provision of Rule 4.182A(6) that on 11 April 1997 he intends to make a final return to creditors who have submitted claims by 11 April 1997 and that there will be no further distribution to creditors. The final return to creditors will be made without regard to the claim of any person in respect of a debt not already proved. The company is able to pay all of its known creditors in full.
MARTIN FISHMAN, Liquidator
Date 18.3.97

ESTATE OF WILLIAM LLEWELLYN WILTON
Section 27 TRUSTEE ACT 1925
Any person having a claim against, or interest in the estate of William Llewellyn Wilton late of South House Carrier Drive Heath Hill Milton Keynes Bucks who died on 8 December 1996 should send written particulars of such claim or interest before 31 May 1997 to the undersigned Solicitors for the Executor who will distribute the Estate after that date amongst those entitled having regard only to claims and interests of which he has then had notice.
Brutall Harris, Solicitors
Dansway House, Dadsee Lane, Potters Bar, Herts EN6 1AQ

MELLOWCROFT LIMITED
THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986 that a MEETING of the CREDITORS of the above named Company will be held at the offices of Poppleton & Appleby, 32 High Street, Manchester M4 1QD on Thursday 27th March 1997 at 12.00 noon for the purposes mentioned in Section 99, 100 and 101 of the said Act.
Pursuant to Section 98 subsection (3)(a) of the Act Mr Stephen Lord of Poppleton & Appleby, 32 High Street, Manchester M4 1QD is appointed to act as the Qualified Insolvency Practioner who will furnish creditors with such information as they may reasonably require.
DATED THIS 19TH DAY OF MARCH 1997
BY ORDER OF THE BOARD
K PEARSON, DIRECTOR

PUBLIC NOTICES

Public Notice

MERCHANT SHIPPING (ACCIDENT REPORTING AND INVESTIGATION) REGULATIONS 1994

Public Notice is hereby given that pursuant to regulation 6(4) of the Merchant Shipping (Accident Reporting and Investigation) Regulations 1994, the Chief Inspector of Marine Accidents has ordered an Inspector's inquiry into the loss of the fishing vessel GORAH LASS (SE 94) with three fatalities on 11 March 1997 off the north coast of Cornwall.

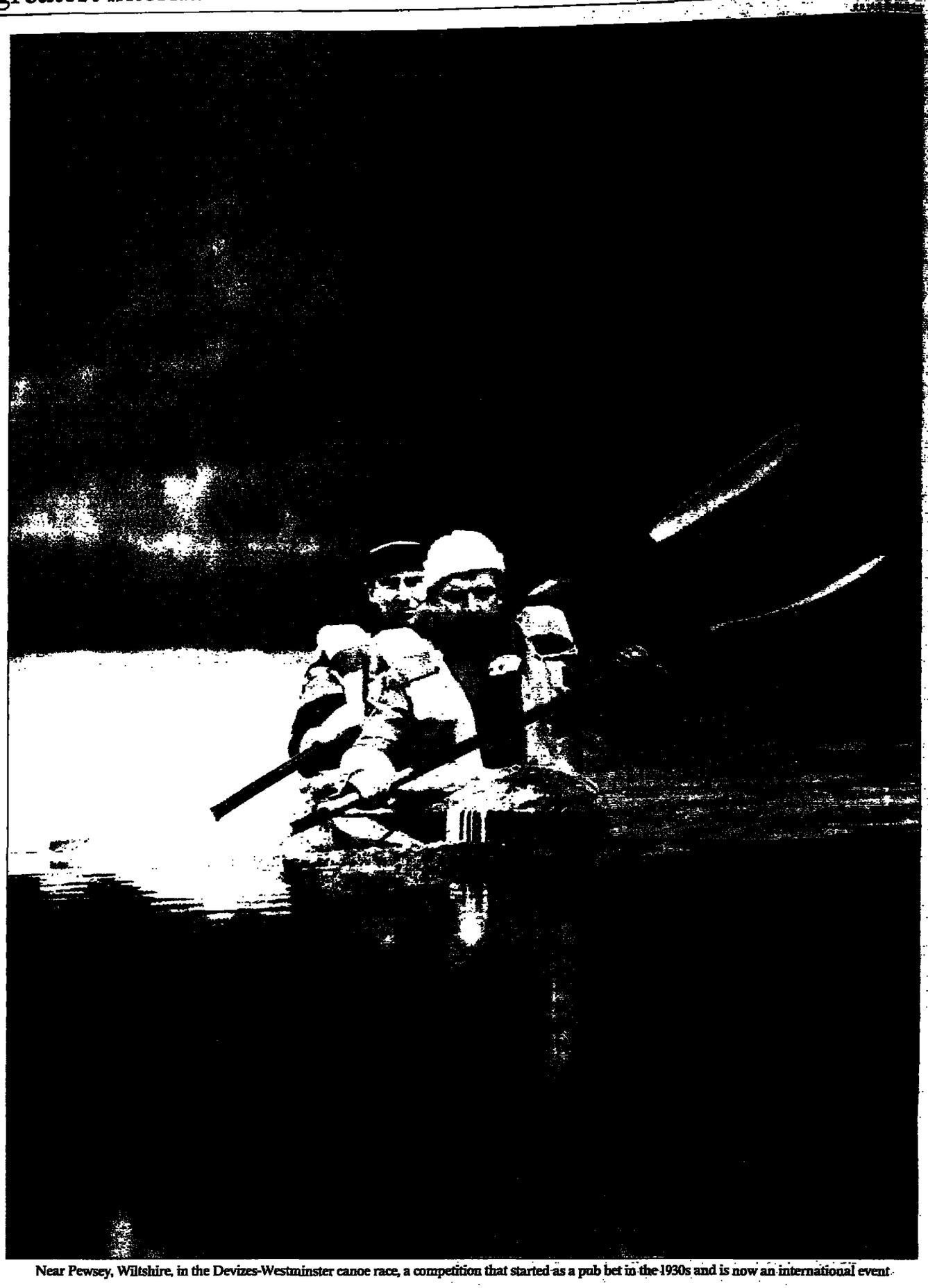
Any persons who desire to make representations to the Inspector which would assist him in determining the circumstances and causes of the accident should write to the Inspector at the following address, no later than 14 days from the date of publication of this Notice:

Marine Accident Investigation Branch
Department of Transport
5/7 Brunswick Place
Southampton, Hampshire SO15 2AN

THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT

James Henderson previews one of the greatest international canoe races: 125 miles from Devizes to London

All the way on paddle power



Near Pewsey, Wiltshire, in the Devizes-Westminster canoe race, a competition that started as a pub bet in the 1930s and is now an international event

As you watch the agonised and exhausted faces in the Boat Race crews this coming Saturday, at the end of their four miles from Putney to Mortlake, spare a thought for the crews of canoeists who will be arriving in London from the other direction. They have come all the way from Devizes, Wiltshire, 125 miles away, on one of the world's longest and most arduous canoeing races.

The Devizes to Westminster Canoe Race, takes place each Easter weekend and 1997 is its Golden Jubilee. Up to 400 boats, from as far away as *Denmark, Malta, the United States* and Pakistan, will be taking part.

The event starts before dawn on Good Friday at the wharf in Devizes. Competitors paddle the length of the Kennet & Avon Canal to Reading, where they will join the Thames and paddle down to London, finishing at Westminster Bridge.

"There's nothing quite like the DW," Steve Harris, who partners Ivan Lawler as the reigning world doubles marathon canoe champion, and who has competed in the event in the past, says. Their longest race on the international circuit is 26 miles long. The DW is five times that.

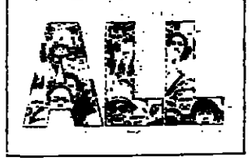
"It's so long and arduous, Harris says, "that it scares off a lot of the elite paddlers because it could put them out for the rest of the season."

Instead, the DW is mainly an amateur challenge, but there is no shortage of people prepared to drive themselves to the point of physical collapse in their efforts to complete it. And as if the canoeing is not enough, there are locks to contend with: 77 of them. Paddlers have to "portage" around them; they get out, pick up their canoe, and walk, or run, around the lock, put the boat back in and cast off as quickly as they can.

It sounds difficult, but one competitor admitted: "Actually, portages are not that bad. They get the circulation in the legs going again."

The race, which has taken on a style of true derring-do and adventure, was conceived in a pub as a bet in the 1930s, when a group of friends wagered that they could take a skiff from Pewsey in Wiltshire to Mudeford near Christchurch, Dorset, in less than three days, which they did. The challenge was resurrected over the current route in the late 1940s and canoeists joined them in 1948. The race has been staged annually ever since.

SPORT FOR ALL



There are four classes within the DW and up to 60 trophies in all: for different categories and styles of canoe. Three classes — the junior doubles, senior singles and the veteran/junior combination — are run in daily "stages" over the Easter weekend. Paddlers race about 35 miles on each of the first three days. Then, on Easter Monday at 8.30am there will be a mass start at Ham, and 120 boats will ride the last 17 miles of the course downstream, reaching Westminster Bridge by about ten o'clock.

The fourth class is the senior doubles, an innocent-sounding name for what turns out to be an unearthly, gruelling slog lasting between 16 and 24 hours without a break. This event is paddled "straight through"; no time is allotted for rest or food. About half of the total entrants will be in this class and quite a few of those will not make it.

'The bones ache, the brain plays tricks. Only strength of personality will get you through it'

It is a truly tough event. Apart from the sheer length, which makes it so exhausting, there is the unpredictable weather (particularly this year because Easter is so early). Competitors can find themselves paddling in a T-shirt during the day if it is sunny and then a few hours later it can be freezing. The worst moment seems to come about an hour before dawn, when it is coldest and teams have been paddling through the night in the dark.

Tamsin Phipps, who has paddled the race eight times in the past ten years and has won the women's event once and the mixed event another year, says: "That's when the bones are aching and the brain starts playing tricks. It is only strength of personality that gets you through."

It's true. It takes a certain mind-set to keep going and going, thoughts fixed on the next portage, without letting the cold, hunger and discomfort turn to doubt. There is a saying that competitors take their brain out in Devizes and get it back at Westminster.

Finally, the race throws in one more challenge. It is vital to catch the outgoing tide in the final stretch from Teddington Lock because it is impossible to paddle against the flow. Competitors choose their own start times in order to arrive there at high tide. Just imagine the disappointment of having to wait for six hours on the riverbank.

As well as entries from clubs, there is a long Services tradition in the DW. The Royal Engineers and Marines always enter and often so do the Police and RAF. There have been some well-known competitors in past years — among them Robin Knox-Johnston and Chay Blyth — but the best-known alumnus of the race is Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal Democrats leader, who competed in the 1965 race while he was in the Marines, winning his class for the year. He is reputed to have said that he knows of only one person in history who had a more miserable Easter. It is a long haul to Westminster, however you look at it.

So why do these people do it? Why do they put themselves through such cold, wet misery, and for so long, for no obvious material gain?

For men like Harris and Lawler, there is the potential prestige of breaking the record, but for most people the answer lies in the challenge, and there are as many answers as there are people.

Some want to beat their time from last year, others want to beat their father's time from 20 years before. Others are raising money for charity. Many competitors simply want to finish — in itself a huge accomplishment.

For all the agony and exhaustion, the feelings of pain fade fairly quickly after you have finished and you're warm and dry. The memories remain, though, and they give that irreplaceable and immense feeling that every long-distance sports person knows. The feeling of a challenge taken on and won.



Passing a lock: like the repetitious paddling, hard work, but great for restoring the circulation in the legs

GETTING STARTED

THE easiest and safest introduction to canoeing is through a club or a training centre. There are thousands of these around the country.

For general advice and a list of clubs affiliated to British Canoe Union, contact the BCU in Nottingham (tel: 0115-982 1100).

Annual BCU membership costs £16.50 for adults and £10 for under-18s. The BCU can provide leaflets with the dates and prices of introductory courses. Basic weekend introductory courses start at about £60. Club membership varies, but can cost around £45 for a club that has canoes available (buying is expensive). Some clubs also hold open days and introductory evenings free or at minimal charge.

Such events will introduce you to the sport and enable you to choose a discipline, which in addition to the sprints and marathons on flat-water, are as varied as slalom, wildwater (like downhill), sea kayaking, rodeo (trick canoeing) and even canoe-surfing and canoe-sailing.

If you continue with the sport, you will want to buy your own clothes and equipment, such as windproof jacket and buoyancy aid.

If you want to enter the Devizes to Westminster race, it would be a good idea to start training soon for next Easter. At least make sure to get on the water during the summer because capsizing in August is much less uncomfortable than in December.

You should certainly attend some of the Waterside and Thameside series, each between 15 and 35 miles long, which are staged fortnightly on Sundays in the run-up to the main event. They are held on different stretches of the course so that paddlers can get an idea of the marathon in advance.

● *Details and application forms for the Devizes to Westminster Canoe Race can be obtained from the committee at Boscombe Forge, Church Road, Bookham, Surrey KT23 3JG, or phone 0171-401 8266. Entry fees are between £60 and £70 for a double boat and £35 for a single.*

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

BY ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

This is an amusing incident (not so amusing for West) from the BBL Premier League match between Price and Ash.

Dealer West — Game all — IMPs

	♠A7543 ♥A65 ♦J53 ♣83	
♠2 ♥QJ ♦K1074 ♣QJ10954	N W E S	♠106 ♥K10972 ♦AQ986 ♣K
	♠KQJ98 ♥843 ♦2 ♣A762	

W	N	E	S
Ash	Townsend	Ferrari	Mossop
Pass	Pass	2H (1)	2S
3C (2)	4S	All Pass	

Contract: Four Spades by South. Lead: queen of hearts

(1) Showing a weak hand with at least five-four in hearts and a minor. (2) To play in partner's minor.

David Mossop ducked the first heart, won the second and drew two rounds of trumps, West discarding the queen of clubs. Nothing wrong with that — signalling with the top of a sequence when you can afford it is one of the best ways of briefing partner about the hand. Had East held A 7 6 2 in clubs, he would have been grateful to learn that he should rise with the ace when declarer played a club from dummy.

Things went wrong for West when Mossop got off lead with a diamond. The defence should have arranged for East to win this trick of course, but somehow West took it. West continued with the jack of clubs, disastrously crashing partner's king. Mossop won, played a second club to West's nine, ruffed the diamond return, and ran the six of clubs, taking a ruffing finesse against the ten.

After this misadventure, West's defensive signals will probably be much less generous (and less clear) for quite some time.

☐ Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

KEENE on CHESS

BY RAYMOND KEENE
CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Youngest grandmaster

In the wake of Gawain Jones, 9, *defeating the international* master Malcolm Pein, Etienne Bacrot, from France, has scored 6½ points out of nine games in the category ten tournament at Enghien-les-Bains, near Paris, to become the world's youngest-ever grandmaster. Bacrot is 14.

World championship

It has been announced that the controversial 1997 world championship between Garry Kasparov and Anatoly Karpov, which bypasses both of their official organisations, the PCA and Fide, will be held near Paris starting in October. The match will have a prize fund of $3 million, be played over 18 games and will start on October 21. The venue will be the Palace of Napoleon at Compiègne, 50 kilometres north of Paris.

Brilliant win

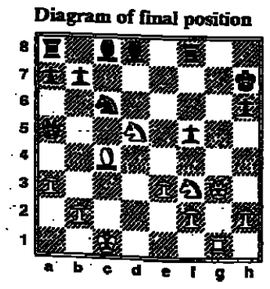
The following brilliant win was scored by the British international master, Aaron Summerscale in the tournament at Cannes. There is a superb variation on move 17 if Black accepts the rook sacrifice.

White: Aaron Summerscale
Black: Edmar Mednis
Cannes, March 1997

Queen's Gambit Declined

1	c4	Nf6
2	Nc3	e6
3	Nf3	d5
4	d4	Be7
5	Bf4	0-0
6	e3	c5
7	dxc5	Bxc5
8	Qc2	Nc6
9	a3	Be7
10	0-0-0	Qa5
11	g4	dxc4
12	Bxc4	e5
13	g5	ed4
14	gxf6	Bxf6
15	Nd5	Bd8
16	Rhg1	h6
17	Qe4	Kh8
18	Rxg7	f5
19	Qxf4	Kxg7
20	Rg1+	Kh7
21	Qg3	Black resigns

Diagram of final position



If 18 ... Kxg7 19 Rg1+ Bg5 20 Nxg5 hxg5 21 Rxg5+ Kh6 22 Rh5+ Kxh5 23 Qh7+ Kg4 24 Be2+ f3 25 Nf6+ Kg5 26 Ne4+ Kg4 27 h3 checkmate.

☐ Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

CUDDY
a. A lord's entertainment
b. An officer's cabin
c. A stupid Scot

CULCH
a. Oyster spawn
b. A pine cone
c. A fused wire

CULLIS
a. A small postern
b. A strong broth
c. A roof gutter

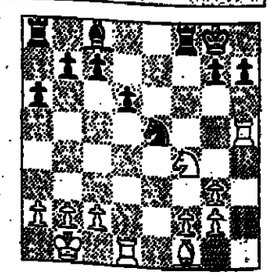
CULVERTAGE
a. Primitive drainage
b. A dressage manoeuvre
c. Downgrading

Answers on page 45

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

White to play. This position is from the game Savernjev — Paromov, USSR 1963. Although queens have been exchanged, White's lead in development still allows him to bring off a winning combination. Can you see it?



Solution on page 45

Validity issue not raised before ombudsman

Hamar and Another v Pensions Ombudsman and Another

Before Lord Justice Simon Brown, Lord Justice Saville and Lord Justice Millett

[Judgment March 18]

Where the validity of an application by a deferred pensioner to transfer his accrued rights from one pension scheme to another was not raised by the trustees of the scheme at the hearing of a complaint before the Pensions Ombudsman, the trustees were precluded from raising the matter on an appeal to the High Court under section 151(4) of the Pension Schemes Act 1993.

The Court of Appeal so stated, inter alia, allowing an appeal by the complainant, John Michael French, from the decision of Mr Justice Collins made on October 20, 1995 whereby he allowed the appeal of the trustees, Christopher James Hamar and Lockville Trustees Ltd, from the decision of the Pensions Ombudsman.

In June 1992 the complainant complained to the ombudsman that he had suffered injustice because of maladministration by the trustees who had failed to pay the transfer value of his accrued pension rights under a small self-administered occupational pension scheme established by Zengrange Ltd for the benefit of its employees to another scheme, Greplite Ltd Executive Pensions Fund. The ombudsman upheld his complaint.

The complainant was the managing director of Zengrange Ltd and, as such, an employed member of the scheme until his dismissal on May 30, 1989. He was also a trustee until his removal from the trusteeship on September 13, 1989.

On learning that he had been removed as a trustee, he wrote a letter dated October 15, 1990 to the trustees formally requiring them to transfer his entitlement to "another scheme, details of which shall be advised in due course".

He received no reply and wrote again on August 24, 1991 repeating his requirement and identifying the other scheme as "the Greplite Ltd Executive Pensions Fund". The letter indicated that the scheme was then still in the course of preparation, but it was established a week or two later. Inland Revenue approval was obtained on April 10, 1992.

Mr Mark Herbert, QC, who did not appear below, for the complainant; Mr Christopher Nugee for the trustees.

LORD JUSTICE MILLETT said that the judge set aside the order of the ombudsman on the ground that the complainant had never made a valid application for the payment of his transfer value. The point was taken by the trustees for the first time in their appeal.

Counsel who then appeared for the complainant did not argue that the point was not open to the trustees, either because they were estopped from taking it or otherwise; nor did he attempt to support either of the letters dated October 15, 1990 or August 24, 1991 as a valid exercise of his statutory rights.

His Lordship agreed with the judge that the complainant never made a valid application. The next issue was whether the trustees were estopped or otherwise excluded from challenging the validity of the application.

In his Lordship's judgment, it raised two distinct questions:

First, whether it was open to the trustees to waive the strict requirements of section 95 of the 1993 Act and treat an application which did not comply with them as if it did.

Second, if it was open to them to waive the statutory requirements, whether they did so, either by choosing not to rely on the non-compliance or by so conducting themselves that it would be inequitable for them to rely on it.

Similar questions were considered by the House of Lords in *Kammins Ballrooms Co Ltd v Zenith Investments (Torquay) Ltd* ([1971] AC 850) and by the Court of Appeal in *Daejan Properties Ltd v Mahoney* ([1995] 2 EGLR 75).

In both cases the statutory language was mandatory and explicit; yet the parties were held to be able to waive compliance with the express requirements of the statute because they were imposed for their protection.

By comparison with the statutory provisions under consideration in those cases, section 95 of the 1993 Act was a hybrid. Some of its provisions clearly could not be waived.

Those which restricted the use to which the transfer value could be applied, for example, were imposed as a matter of policy. They were not imposed for the benefit of the parties, and certainly not for the benefit of the trustees. They could not be waived.

Other requirements of section 95, however, were purely formal. The requirement that the application be made in writing, for example, was clearly imposed for the benefit of the trustees; it might be unwise of them to waive the requirement, but it would be absurd to hold that they could not do so if they chose.

In his Lordship's judgment, the trustees were entitled to treat the letter of August 24, 1991 as a valid application even if it was premature. The same was true of the letter of October 15, 1990 even if it did not exercise the option conferred by section 95 with sufficient particularity and did not tell the trustees what they were to do.

The matter could be tested by considering the various functions which the application under section 95 served. In his Lordship's judgment, the trustees could properly waive the want of particularity in the letter of October 15 and treat it as a lawful exercise of the option conferred by the section.

Equally, they could properly accept the letter as fixing the date by reference to which the value of the transfer payment was to be ascertained. No question of public policy would be involved. And if, as his Lordship would hold, the trustees might waive formal defects in the application such as want of particularity, then they might accept a defective application as valid to fix the date for ascertaining the value of the transfer payment.

His Lordship was of the opinion that the trustees did implicitly accept the letter of October 15 as a valid application with which they were bound to comply, while at the same time maintaining their right to defer actual payment until the property [the main asset of the scheme] could be sold. They never resiled from that position. Had they done so at any time before the ombudsman made his final determination, he would have had to decide whether they should be allowed to do so.

In his Lordship's view, the ombudsman could not have been criticised if he had refused to allow the trustees to challenge the validity of the application in the course of their reply to his provisional determination.

But it did not matter whether they could have been precluded from disputing the validity of the application before the ombudsman, for they never did. It was plainly too late for them to do so for the first time in their appeal from the final determination of the ombudsman.

The objection to raising the matter for the first time on appeal had in his Lordship's opinion nothing to do with estoppel, waiver or election.

It arose from the nature of legal proceedings and the appellate process. In ordinary litigation the issues were defined by the pleadings. They could not be amended after trial to raise new issues not opened on the pleadings below.

The general principle was that the mere failure to raise a defence did not amount to a representation that it would not be raised at the proper time; but if it was not raised when the time came to raise it, it was treated as waived: see *Graham v Ingleby* ((1848) 1 Exch 651, 657).

Investigations by the Pensions Ombudsman were informal. There were no pleadings. The issues were defined by the complaint and the response to it. The jurisdiction of the ombudsman was limited to the investigation of the complaint actually made to him.

At the end of his investigation, his duty was to determine the matters then actually in dispute between the parties. If he correctly applied the law correctly to the facts found or not in dispute, he made no error of law.

Neither the validity of the letter of October 15, 1990 nor the trustees' obligation to comply with it when they could do so without detriment to the members of the scheme was ever in dispute.

Appeal from the determination of the Pensions Ombudsman lay to the High Court but on a question of law only. His Lordship was at a loss to know what error of law was made by the ombudsman.

In his Lordship's view the ombudsman was entitled to treat the letter of October 15, 1990 as valid as the parties had themselves treated it. Mr Herbert had submitted that the principle in play was that of estoppel by convention.

His Lordship would not so regard it but the analogy was close. The judge was wrong to find that the ombudsman made an error in law in treating the letter as valid when its validity was not disputed before him.

The last question was whether the complainant could be allowed to challenge the judge's decision when he did not raise the matter below. If the trustees should not have been allowed to dispute the validity of the letter of October 15, 1990 before the judge because they had not done so before the ombudsman, surely the complainant should not be allowed to challenge their right to do so before their Lordships when he did not do so before the judge.

But in his Lordship's judgment the two situations were different. The Pensions Ombudsman was the sole tribunal of fact. His function was to reach a conclusion on the facts found or disputed.

The appeal to the judge lay on a question of law only. The judge had no jurisdiction to disturb the determination of the ombudsman if it was reached by a correct application of the law to the facts found by him or not in dispute before him.

The appeal to the Court of Appeal was by way of rehearing. If the judge found an error of law where there was none, then the court was bound to correct him.

The failure of an appellant to take a point below was material, but it ought not to deter their Lordships where it had not resulted in uncompensatable prejudice to the other party.

Subject to the variations (i) that the transfer value should be ascertained at October 15, 1990 and (ii) that it should be paid with interest from October 5, 1994, the date of his final determination, out of the assets subject to the trusts of the scheme, his Lordship would restore the decision of the ombudsman.

Lord Justice Simon Brown and Lord Justice Saville agreed.

Solicitors: Ford & Warren, Leeds; Landau & Scanlan.

Currency losses not allowable

Taylor Clark International Ltd v Lewis (Inspector of Taxes)

Before Mr Justice Robert Walker

[Judgment March 7]

Losses caused by fluctuating currency rates from the repayment of a secured, interest-bearing, loan made to an overseas company by its United Kingdom parent company to finance a property development project did not give rise to a loss for capital gains tax purposes.

The lender's right to repayment of the loan was not a "debt on a security" within the meaning of section 134 of the Capital Gains Tax Act 1979 so that the losses were not allowable in computing liability in respect of chargeable gains.

Mr Justice Robert Walker so held in a reserved judgment in the Chancery Division dismissing an appeal by way of case stated by the taxpayer company, Taylor Clark International Ltd, from a determination of special commissioners (Mr T. H. K. Everett, Mr Stephen Oliver, QC and Mr M. Cornwell-Kelly) that losses sustained during the accounting periods to March 1992 were not in respect of a debt on a security and were therefore not allowable losses.

Section 29 of the 1979 Act provides: "(2) . . . all the provisions of this Act which distinguish gains which are chargeable gains from those which are not . . . shall also apply to distinguish losses which are allowable losses from those which are not. . ."

Section 134 provides: "(1) Where a person incurs a debt to another . . . no chargeable gain shall accrue . . . on a disposal of the debt except in the case of the debt on a security (as defined in section 82 above)."

Section 82(3)(b) defines security as including "any loan stock or similar security . . . of any company, and whether secured or unsecured."

The provisions are now contained in the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992.

Mr Graham Aaronson, QC and Mr Anthony de Garr Robinson for the taxpayer company; Mr Launcelot Henderson, QC, for the Crown.

MR JUSTICE ROBERT WALKER said that the general policy underlying section 134(1) was described by Lord Justice Templeman in *Ramsay (W. T.) Ltd v IRC* ([1979] 1 WLR 974, 982-3) as constituting a coherent system of capital gains taxation by excluding "dispositions of debts by owners where the dispositions cannot give rise to gains but to include dispositions of debts in the form of investments which may result in gains or losses in the same way as dispositions of other investments".

The appeal was concerned with a loan in US dollars by the taxpayer company to its wholly owned Californian subsidiary for the purchase of three properties in Santa Clara. The documentary evidence included promissory notes encumbering the properties and statements that the loan was to be interest bearing and repayable on demand.

The loan was repaid by 1992. Whether the exchange losses on the taxpayer company converting repaid dollars into sterling during its 1992 accounting period was an allowable loss was the essential issue.

It was common ground that that depended on whether or not the taxpayer company's right to repayment of the dollar loan was a "debt on a security" within section 134(1).

There was no suggestion of tax avoidance by the taxpayer company: had it foreseen the exchange loss it could without artificiality have structured the loan in such a way as to make it reasonably clear that it did create a debt on a security.

Mr Aaronson, relying on the speech of Lord Russell in *Aberdeen Construction Group Ltd v IRC* ([1978] AC 885, 903), submitted that the primary meaning of "security" was, as exemplified by Lord Justice Templeman in the *Ramsay* case (at p983) as being "a fixed or floating charge", any proprietary security and that that was conclusive of the appeal.

Mr Henderson submitted that if Parliament had intended every debt backed by some proprietary security to fall within section 134(1) it would not have done so by borrowing the definition of "security" from section 82(3)(b). The definition was, he said, limited to loan stock or something like loan stock.

Mr Aaronson's submissions had to be rejected. The decisions of the House of Lords in *Aberdeen Construction* and *Ramsay* did not establish that a "debt on a security" included a debt that was supported by some proprietary security but which did not resemble a marketable investment.

Here the debt evidenced by the promissory note was stated to be assignable and had documentary title but its terms were such that it was unlikely, although not totally impossible, to be of interest to an outside investor.

But the special commissioners took the view that the loan lacked "a structure of permanence" because it had no fixed term and repayment could have been demanded by the creditor or debtor at any time.

That was an important point, even if not absolutely decisive. The case was one of a secure, interest-bearing intra-group loan to finance a particular project.

The terms and context of the loan were such that it was unlikely that the benefit of the loan would be dealt in or marketed. The commissioners were right to attach importance to the impermanent nature of the loan and right in their main conclusion.

Solicitors: William Sturges & Co; Solicitor of Inland Revenue.

Pleading libel out of time in contract case

Lloyds Bank plc v Rogers and Another

Before Lord Justice Simon Brown, Lord Justice Peter Gibson and Lord Justice Hobhouse

[Judgment December 20]

In an unusual case where a claimant could not be sure his bank had libelled him without first determining what the state of his account would have been had the bank not levied allegedly excessive charges, the court would allow him under section 35 of the Limitation Act 1980 to amend his pleadings in a breach of contract action so as to plead libel even though more than three years had passed since the cause of action arose.

The policy of section 35 of the 1980 Act was that, if factual issues were in any event going to be litigated between the parties, the parties should be able to rely upon any cause of action which substantially arose from those facts.

Any relevant prejudice to the party opposing the amendment could be taken into account in the exercise of the court's discretion whether to allow the amendment. There were no grounds in the instant case on which the court could interfere with the judge's exercise of his discretion.

The Court of Appeal so held dismissing an appeal by Lloyds Bank plc against Judge Overend, QC, who, sitting as a deputy judge of the High Court at Plymouth (*The Times* April 11, 1996) gave leave to the first defendant, Nicholas Rogers, to further amend his defence and counterclaim in an action brought against him and the second defendant, Linda Jane Rogers, in which the bank originally claimed £78,646.53 plus interest.

Mr David Eady, QC and Mr Thomas Keith for the bank; Mr Michael Tugendhat, QC and Mr Miles Croally for Mr Rogers.

LORD JUSTICE HOBHOUSE said the first defendant was a commercial photographer who had taken out a secured overdraft with the bank at what he thought was 4 per cent above the bank's base rate. Debit balances had built up and the bank on a number of occasions had dishonoured his cheques and refused direct debit instructions, seriously affecting his business and his ordinary life.

The defendant had taken up with the bank the size of the interest and bank charges on his account. The bank blamed the computer and gave him a £6,134.37 credit. At the same time the bank demanded immediate payment of £78,646.53, threatening otherwise to tell credit agencies he was a defaulting customer. Nine days later, the bank had issued a writ for the full sum plus interest.

The bank's further and better particulars in the action revealed it had been charging the defendant interest at 37.67 per cent. It sought summary judgment for that sum.

The defendant took expert advice and showed an arguable case that the charges were unjustified. The bank in response amended the endorsement to its writ by abandoning the claim to interest, reducing the claim by £35,706.13 to £42,940.40 but still failed to get summary judgment.

The implication of the abandonment of the interest claim was that it no longer followed there were necessarily insufficient funds in the accounts when the cheques and debits were dishonoured.

On that basis, in spring 1993 the defendant had served an amended defence and counterclaim, asserting that the bank had wrongfully dishonoured his cheques and wrongly made statements that his accounts contained insufficient funds, amounting to breach of contract and libel. Leave to amend was required and application was made in August 1994.

By that time, more than three years had passed, exceeding the three-year limitation period in a claim for libel, although not the six-year period laid down for contract actions. The defendant therefore relied on section 35 and Order 20, rule 5 of the Rules of the Supreme Court.

The bank argued that there was no jurisdiction to add a cause of action in defamation when the facts referred to had first been pleaded in the action after the expiry of the three-year period, and that only the original pleading served in 1991 could be looked at for the purpose. The judge had rejected the bank's arguments on jurisdiction and exercised his discretion in favour of the defendant.

The bank argued that the policy of the Act required the facts should have been pleaded before the expiry of the relevant limitation period, so that a later pleading of the facts could not be used to support an out of time amendment even though the facts had been pleaded in relation to a cause of action which at that time was not time-barred.

The judge had correctly rejected that argument. Section 35 contemplated that the introduced cause of action would be time-barred. The policy of the section was that, if factual issues were in any event going to be litigated between the parties, the parties should be able to rely upon any cause of action which substantially arose from those facts.

The bank had argued that discretion should be exercised in its favour because there was a strong policy that any defamation action should be started promptly after the defamatory statement came to the notice of the prospective claimant.

The instant case was unusual. When the defamatory statements were made the bank was asserting that the state of the accounts was such as to justify fully what it had done. Until the defendant was in a position to ascertain the facts and disprove that he was not entitled to believe that he had been wrongly defamed.

Now that the whole question of the bank's dishonouring of the cheques and debit instructions and the justification for it and the damage to Mr Rogers and his business was going to be before the court, there was no adequate reason why if part of what he was entitled to complain of amounted to the tort of libel he should not be allowed to include claims under that head as well.

The bank had not been prejudiced by the lapse of time. No sufficient grounds had been shown for interfering with the judge's exercise of his discretion. In his Lordship's judgment the judge's conclusion was appropriate on the somewhat unusual facts.

Lord Justice Peter Gibson agreed.

LORD JUSTICE SIMON BROWN said that in 99.9 per cent of libel cases the approach advocated by Mr Eady, relying on dicta in *Grovit v Doctor* (unreported, October 28, 1993) and *Oyston v Blaker* ([1996] 1 WLR 1326), was correct. Those who alleged they had been defamed should seek the vindication of their reputation as speedily as possible, and the relative speed or delay of their proceedings was a touchstone by which the genuineness of their complaint might be judged.

However, this was plainly the thousandth case. Here the libel claim mirrored the existing contract claim so that there would in any event be litigated the all important factual issue, the state of the defendant's account. Here too, for that very reason, there was no overall delay in the commencement of proceedings, nor any overall lengthening of their course by the amendment.

The defendant had hardly been tardy in seeking to vindicate his reputation. He did not know realistically whether or not he had been libelled until he knew the true state of his account. Although technically he knew he has been libelled as soon as his cheques were returned, any successful claim had to include the assertion that the cheques should have been met because there were funds or agreed facilities available. In reality, the claim and the defence were one.

Solicitors: Foot & Bowden, Plymouth; Alison Trent & Co.

Choice to be made without advice

Director of Public Prosecutions v Ward

A driver with a right to replace a breath specimen with a specimen of blood or urine was not entitled to have legal advice before deciding whether to exercise that right.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court (Lord Justice Brooke and Mr Justice Blofeld) so held on March 18 when allowing an appeal by the prosecution by case stated against the acquittal by Brighton Justices on May 23, 1996 of Jack Ward of driving after having consumed alcohol in excess of the limit.

LORD JUSTICE BROOKE said that the defendant, having provided a breath specimen which contained less than 50 micrograms of alcohol in 100 millilitres of breath, had declined to exercise his right under section 8(2) of the Road Traffic Act 1988 to replace the specimen with one of blood or urine.

The justices had found that the police should have waited until the defendant had spoken to a solicitor before asking him whether he wished to replace the specimen, and they excluded the evidence of the breath specimen under section 78 of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984.

It was clear from *DPP v Billington* ([1988] RTR 231) that the right to consult a solicitor, under section 58 of the 1984 Act, did not apply when a motorist was required to provide a specimen under section 7 of the 1988 Act. Since there was no logical distinction between the procedures of section 7 and section 8, a suspect had no right to legal advice when making a decision under section 8(2).

Non-party sought to set order aside

In re Sybil Margaret Pope (a Bankrupt)

Before Miss Hazel Williamson, QC

[Judgment March 7]

Where a person who was affected by an order made in the course of litigation to which he was not a party and of which he had no notice wished to apply to have that order set aside, he was entitled to do so under Order 37, rule 2 of the County Court Rules 1981 if he first successfully applied to become a party to those proceedings under Order 15, rule 1. He was not limited to invoking Order 37, rule 1.

Miss Hazel Williamson, QC, sitting as a deputy judge of the Chancery Division, so held dismissing the appeal of the trustee in bankruptcy to Sybil Pope against a ruling by Deputy Judge Fawcett on January 6, 1997 in Brighton County Court that, inter alia, Birmingham Midshires Building Society, which had not been a party to the bankruptcy proceedings, had been entitled to apply under Order 37, rule 2 to have an order made in those proceedings set aside.

Mr James King-Smith for the trustee; Mr Simon Clegg for the building society.

HER LADYSHIP said that although she had initially been attracted by the reference to the clear definition of "party" in Order 37, rule 2 and felt that supported the trustee's argument that that could only mean a person on the record, or falling within the definition of "party" in section 147 of the County Courts Act 1984, on a proper analysis of the general structure of the County Court Rules in relation to setting aside judgment, she was satisfied that it was in fact correct to apply to become a party under Order 15, rule 1, and then to apply to set aside under Order 37, rule 2.

She agreed with counsel for the society that Order 37 expressly contemplated applications to be made by strangers to litigation and who therefore might not have knowledge that an order had been made, and it would be strange if those people should be subject to the 14-day time limit imposed by rule 1.

Solicitors: Woolley Bevis & Diplock, Brighton; Rees-Page, Wolverhampton.

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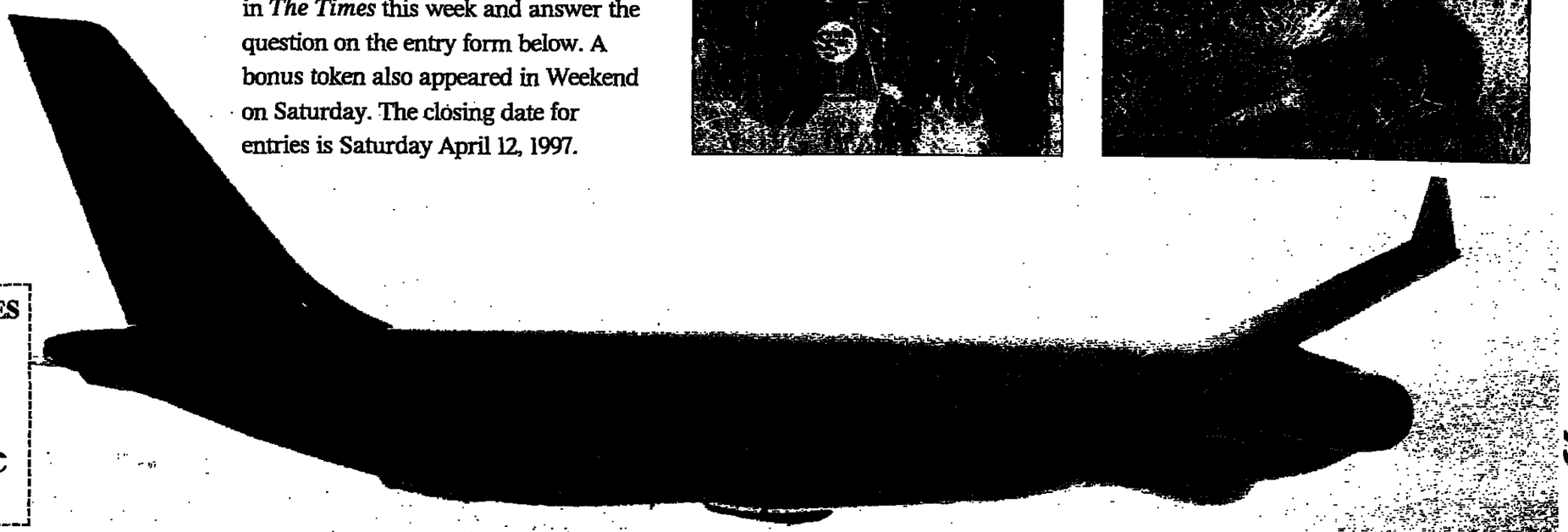




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Capitalisation, week's change

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
4,623.60	Allied Domecq	445	- 16	6.6	13.4
327.60	Bulmer (HP)	628½	- 5½	2.7	16.5
37.70	Burn Stewart	63½	- 7	6.7	57.5
137.40	Glenmorangie A	1010	- 3	1.5	27.5
10,599.80	Grand Met	466	- 1½	4.1	15.8
6,573.50	Guinness	507½	+ 20	4.1	14.1
491.20	Highland Dist	348	- 24	3.9	16.7
277.80	Matthew Clark	314	- 8	9.6	15.8
10.20	Mayflow W	94	- 6½	6.1	12.7
6,668.10	SA Breweries	1925	+ 3½	1.8	

BANKS

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
12,682.80	ABN AMRO	4161½	- 150	2.9	16.9
10,068.00	Abbey Nat	715	- 68	4.6	12.7
2,172.40	Alliance Leic	412	- 24½	4.4	
3,918.50	Anl Nthr 2	397	+ 13½	4.8	
28,224.90	Bank Ayrshire	6521½	- 218½		
3,869.30	Bank Scotland	322½	- 26½	2.8	11.8
15,631.40	Barclays	1024½	- 64	3.9	10.4
2,867.60	BK of Ireland	662½	- 24	3.5	13.6
35,094.10	Citicorp	7284½	- 90½		
7,544.80	Dunbrook	1655½	- 32½	2.6	
23,587.80	Dai Ichi Kan Y	743½	+ 62½	0.6	
16,469.10	Deutsche Bk	3296½	- 71½	2.8	
193.40	Espirito Santo	902½	- 3½	3.8	12.6
22,982.50	Fuji Bank Y	7930½	+ 80½	0.5	
12,700.50	HBOS	1458½	- 99½	3.5	12.5
25,100.40	HSBC (HK)	1428½	- 98½	3.6	12.2
511.70	Irish Permt	595		3.6	
24,695.80	Lloyds TSB†	461	- 61½	3.6	14.9
11,223.20	Nat West Bk	780	- 33	3.5	10.8
11,655.40	Nat Wstmr	662	- 53½	5.3	10.2
4,325.50	Rbl Bk Scot	1527½	- 28	4.4	11.7
8,257.20	Royal Liverp	840	- 6½	2.2	13.1
15,051.10	Wells Fargo	6164½		2.0	
6,778.50	Westpac	3564½	- 6	3.8	11.3

BREWERIES, PUBS & REST

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
7,167.70	Bass	809	- 50	3.9	15.9
76.70	Bk for Inv Bs	65½		3.4	17.4
38.80	Barkwood Bnw	1865½	- 2	8.8	16.8
292.70	Dobbs Quick Rest	156½	- 4	1.9	29.4
2,142.80	Compass Grp	674½	- 15½	2.2	19.8
59.00	Eldridge P A	278½	- 9	2.4	17.1
66.10	Fulls Sns 'A'	482½			15.1
1,529.80	Greenalls Grp	915	- 36½	3.7	16.2
433.50	Hilton Hotel Corp	716½	- 25	2.8	17.6
29.00	Grosvenor Rstnt	204	- 11½	3.7	19.7
47.40	Groupe Chez Ger	253½	- 27	1.4	24.8
566.70	Hardy Hanson	283½	- 13	4.7	12.9
79.80	Hse 2	270		3.6	11.8
54.90	Inn Backpacrt	77½	+ ½		1.7
230.50	MacAndrs	354	- 3	2.2	16.3
256.60	Mitchs Thmp	283½	- 8	3.3	10.6
185.40	Morland	605	- 5	2.8	15.9
4.57	Pacamoore	39½	-		
504.20	Pizza Expressst	1767½	+ 109½	0.5	50.1
39.50	Ramsdens (Hl)	425	- 12½	1.5	
272.90	Regent Inns†	307	- 34½	1.0	29.4
4,167.60	Scott & Bow	675½	- 24½	3.7	20.5
382.30	Scot Grp	270	- 15	4.9	12.8
489.80	Wetherspoon JD	1185	- 20	1.5	26.4
3,757.60	Whitbread	770	- 35½	3.9	15.6
452.90	Wolverhmptn D	672	- 30½	3.2	14.8
204.70	Yates Brew	491	+ 2½	1.8	31.6
19.80	Young 'A'	620		3.1	24.7

BUILDING & CONSTRUCT

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
4.97	AAF Inds	21½	- 3½		
79.40	Abbey	265		3.4	21.0
118.20	Allen	295½	+ 11	2.9	18.5
256.20	Amec	123	- ½	3.0	21.1
137.90	Arey	477	- 2½	2.0	30.2
72.40	Ashtons Sykes	466	+ 6	1.3	10.8
365.00	Ashtead	278	+ 15½	1.4	25.2
19.40	Arrowpark	44½	- ½	2.8	
3.67	Bailey (Benj) Con	38	- 1	2.6	14.4
49.30	Bardtt	33	- 2½	3.9	21.9
33.60	Barcrft	62	- ½	2.4	35.5
674.50	Barratt Dev	265	- 14	5.9	14.9
507.20	Blazer	180½	- 5½	4.3	12.8
347.10	Bellway	1230½	- 14	3.1	16.7
9.25	Bellwinch	20½			13.5
726.60	Berkeley Gp	726	- 30½	1.4	18.1
23.70	Bett Bros	156	- 3	4.4	4.8
71.50	Bond (Henry)	265		3.8	31.1
21.40	Brandon Hire	94	- ½	8.8	14.4
6.73	Britannia Grp	29½		6.8	
7.11	Br Bldg & Eng	63½	+ 6		
373.90	Bryant	133	- 4	4.7	18.6
48.60	CALA	115½	- 5	3.8	15.2
6.01	Caldwell & Ann	5¾	-	9.8	
9.66	Clarke T	78½	- 3	6.1	12.9
95.30	Concentric	48			
64.90	Countrywidet	85	- 6½	3.3	25.1
66.30	Crest Nicholson†	87	- 4	3.6	18.4
13.60	Cruden	60	- 1	4.2	
16.80	Eve Group†	172½		1.1	
17.30	Galliford†	185½	- ½	6.4	21.3
94.60	Gleeson (MJ)	687½		2.2	17.3
4.35	Green (Eng)	56½	- 1	6.8	17.2
82.20	Hewden-Stuart	722½	- 24½	1.8	22.7
370.50	Higgs-Coleman	1330½	- 7	2.9	17.6
4.62	Howard Mdgs	177½		7.9	18.7
210.10	Jarvis	244	+ 5½	8.8	
114.50	Kelbs	204½	- 9½	2.9	
68.20	Kier	317½	- 9½	3.2	14.0
156.50	Lilley 10p	135	+ 21½	3.8	
51.80	Lilley 6.4% Cv Pf	125	+ 7½	6.4	
4.18	Linsk (Vt)	10½			
51.50	Macalpine (J)	205	- 4½	3.5	14.9
115.10	Mallinson (A)	1575½	- 5½	1.5	
111.60	McCarthy & S	1150		2.8	19.8
15.10	Mckinstry	80			
70.10	Morgan Sindall†	210½	- 2	2.5	16.0
191.20	Morrison Const	268	- 4½	2.1	22.1
210.60	Mowlem (JH)	119½	- 11½	3.1	13.0
447.90	Persimmon	2555½	- 65	2.1	17.1
23.50	Pochin†	115	- 1½	2.7	12.0
110.50	Pripetsy	142	- 1½	3.3	47.1
32.00	Rake Ind	17			13.1
356.20	Redland	197½	- 2½	2.6	16.4
32.80	Ewehil Hdgs	268	- 2	3.1	16.6
3.45	Sheco	57½	- 6½	10.2	6.9
48.30	Spandex	337½	- 7½	1.2	
69.60	Swan Hill	69	- 4½	3.5	
41.80	Tay Homes	192½	- 6	3.8	20.5
786.70	Taylor Woodrow	178½	- 4½	2.0	19.5
209.20	Tilbury Dougls	619	+ 4	4.8	
13.30	Tiy Group	19½	- ½		11.5
30.50	Wimpey(Geo)	68	- 4½	7.7	
80.10	Wilkinsons	123	- 2½	4.4	
30.20	Wood Hdgs	57½	- 2		
226.60	Westbury †	254½	- 9½	3.0	22.3
54.30	Wiggins	10	- ½		41.1
327.40	Wilcon (Cl)	185	+ 30	3.8	
498.60	Wilson Bowdn	934	+ 11½	2.6	18.0
541.70	Wimpey G	148½	- 3	4.7	45.8

BUILDING MATERIALS

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
1,735.30	BPB	341	- 4	3.6	18.4
42.80	Baggeridge Brk	104½	- 5	3.7	25.7
211.70	Bardon	97	- 1½	6.8	16.0
9.59	Blockleys	39½			
3,074.70	Blue Circle	415½	+ 4	3.8	30.1
35.10	Brockbn PLC	81½	- 6	7.7	
29.50	Br Dredging	136½	- 5	3.7	15.7
2,174.50	CRH	865	- 23½	1.8	
2.85	Calednaud Ray	47½		8.2	
93.10	Cape	171½	- 11	4.5	
1,548.60	Caradon	357½	- 6	4.6	26.7
239.50	Caradon 9%	127½	- 2	7.0	
4.06	Chelsea Gdn	58½	- ½	6.9	7.8
4.05	Dyson 'A&B'†	246	- 11½	2.5	14.9
17.50	Dyson 'A'†	128	- 2½	4.9	7.5
6.82	Greatmore	31½			
59.60	Epwin	274½	- 13	4.2	17.4
35.30	Fibre	122½	- 5		13.5
1.52	Gibbs & Dandy	95½	- 2½	5.0	
187.20	Graham Grp	134	- 7	5.5	
104.50	Halstead (J)	340½	- 5½	3.4	14.5
1,043.00	Hanson	298	- 9½	3.4	13.6
691.20	Hepworth	226	+ 8½	7.0	15.3
12.00	Hewetsons	73½	- 2	4.4	14.7
268.30	Heywd Wtm	267	+ 7½	6.7	10.7
330.20	Ibstock	69	- 2	3.7	
66.00	Johnsn&n	523½	- 1½	2.7	20.4
22.60	Lbcraft†	78½		7.6	13.6
418.70	Marley	124	+ ½	5.2	12.8
157.40	Marshalls†	126½	- 4½	5.1	12.8
527.50	Meyer Int	415	+ 2½	3.5	37.0
222.10	Milacron Tckst	173½		9.3	
137.20	Monzos	78½	- 2½	1.6	
15.00	Phoenix Timber	22½	+ 2½	1.7	51.0
1,357.40	Pilkington	131	- 10	4.8	21.1
286.70	Polypipe	241	- ½	1.8	19.7
2,529.10	RMC Gp	976½	- 9½	3.3	15.6
1,876.80	Redland	369½	- 10½	5.8	17.7
13.50	Ressl	75½	- 4½	7.6	8.4
52.90	Rexcrest	109½	- ½	7.5	15.7
236.50	Rugby Group	117½	- ½	4.0	19.0
24.80	Russell (A)	102½		3.9	19.1
330.60	SIG	290	- 11	2.9	16.1
5.33	SWP	29½	-		
49.70	Sharpe & Fisher	260	- 15½	2.9	20.8
68.10	Spring Ram	15	- 1½		
172.50	Streetlme Hdgs	181½	- 1	5.3	12.3
886.90	Tarmac	95½	- 6½	7.2	
15.20	Tilcon	138	- 6	4.5	12.7
537.70	Tarkt Perkins	519	- 24½	4.8	22.4
5.27	Tyler	47½	- 1	2.8	18.7
2,825.80	Wellstyle	497½	- 9½	2.7	16.4

CHEMICALS

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
456.10	Allcroft & Wil	145½	- 1	6.1	10.4
847.10	Allied Colloids	123		2.9	22.0
20.00	Amber Ind	127½		5.6	10.8
61.10	Anderley Gp	100½	-	1.9	99.8
16.10	Angle Ltd	7½	- ½		7.0
14,057.20	BASF Dtd	2275	- 18½	2.9	
4,659.50	BOC	962½	- 37	3.8	16.6
457.30	BTP	273	- 19½	5.2	14.4
18,074.50	Bayer (DM50)	2496½	- 171½	2.2	
65.80	Bwod Chems	97½	- 9	5.8	12.3
138.10	Brunner Mond†	181½	+ 8	5.8	10.2
87.10	Canning (W)	362½	+ 3½	3.6	
97.80	City Technology	200½	- 1		23.6
1,471.90	Courtaulds	362	+ 3	5.5	18.7
407.50	Croda	1025½	- 6	2.9	14.3
51.10	Dualtex	178½	- 4½	2.0	19.5
276.50	Ellis & Everard†	311	- 2	3.8	14.5
27.00	Evro Colour	59	- 5	4.6	11.6
8.06	Gibbon	69½	- 3	10.1	7.1
117.00	Holden	162½	- ½		
14,308.50	Hoechst	2436½	- 109½	2.0	
145.90	Holliday Chems	139	- ½	4.7	
9,100.10	ICI	782½	- 45½	5.7	20.7
324.40	Inspec†	185	- 3	4.2	10.2
447.30	Ashnc	135	- 3½	5.2	20.6
1,360.50	Laporte	702	- 14	4.4	14.6
68.20	Marders	171	- 14	8.8	
33.00	Mondtom	88	+ ½	2.7	10.8
7.29	Metrocol	30	- ½	2.9	19.2
77.40	Monart	203½	- 1½	2.3	28.6
522.00	Scapa	217½	- 8	3.9	11.8
35.40	Sutcliffe Speak	23½	- ½	9.1	7.7
11,447.20	Takeda Chem	1308	+ 48½	0.5	21.9
51.80	Wickmnlee H	647½	- 12½	4.2	12.0
102.60	Yrkhs Grp	224	+ 3½	5.2	
376.30	Yule Catto	370	- ½	2.8	17.4

DISTRIBUTORS

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
88.80	Action Cp Sole	182½	- 12		22.2
13.30	Adam & Harvey	310	- 16	8.3	5.2
8.03	Alexanders†	10	- ½		1.2
43.30	Applegard	85	+ ½	11.9	7.5
7.88	Asc Br Eng	3	-		2.5
138.30	BSS Group	530	+ 4	4.5	16.2
5.63	Bearing Power	164	+ 4		
2.29	Bisgood A	57½		2.5	11.1
284.00	Bizerwat	616	- 6½	3.0	17.5
8.50	Blagdon Gp	24	- 2	10	
26.10	Brit Fishings	169½	+ 10	4.3	12.5
18.90	Cullens	305		4.7	12.5
52.70	Car Group	169	- 6	2.9	16.5
35.00	Cavendish	1315½	- 3	3.2	8.6
32.20	Charles Sydney	77½	- 8½	7.0	
23.80	Cook (DC)	545½	- 3	5.2	6.4
24.30	Dist Motors	105½		9.1	7.5
22.40	Dominos El	126½		2.7	14.2
197.00	Diploma	357½	- 11	5.1	13.0
88.80	Acal	491½		2.2	16.1
196.20	Acorn Comp	220	- 12½		
244.10	Admtch	392½	+ 7	0.8	
226.90	Aeroquip	267	- 5½	7.8	
130.30	Aidy Eng	46½	- 1		
1,517.90	Bradley Inv	63½	- 7	6.7	57.5
747.50	Charter#	844½	+ 65	4.5	11.7
1,626.10	Cookson†	237	- 4½	4.5	17.2
22.00	Diamention	73	+ 2	2.3	14.1
8.81	Domtgs	98	- 4½	3.5	
28.50	Hunter	99	+ 7½	7.5	9.0
28.20	Hunts (Philip)	254	- 5	4.3	15.5
165.50	Headlam	318½	- 1½	2.3	26.4
5.91	Hopkins Tech	149		5.8	14.0
93.20	ISA Ind	228½	+ 3½	1.6	
1,351.10	Inchcape	255½	- 4½	4.8	21.8
5.67	Jacks (Wms)	52½		4.8	16.1
426.00	Ivens Ind	241½	- 1½	2.9	17.0
398.90	Lex Service†	3431½	- 17½	5.8	11.3
34.70	Ladbroke	184	+ 1	8.6	7.8
21.70	Malcolm Grp	13½	- ½	6.4	
58.00	Middlecrft	71½	- ½	11.3	11.1
19.40	Micklefrn	27	- 2	0.8	
27.20	Morgan	258½	- ½	3.9	7.2
47.70	Northampton	140	- 18½	1.2	8.4
241.50	Pierce P	334	+ ½	3.0	
151.10	Pendragon	390½	- 3	3.2	
53.90	Perry Gp	210½	- 12	5.5	
1,333.60	Pressac Furnell	491	- 21½	3.9	19.7
32.90	Electc Group	142	- 3½	5.7	10.6
78.70	REA	315	- 8½	1.6	37.8
3.88	Rmcos	2½			
19.20	Ransom	21½	- 1½	8.7	7.4
4.43	Rees Gp	3			
25.70	Rylandt	90½	+ 2	5.6	19.7
24.60	SEP Indt†	27½	- 1½	8.0	7.4
14.50	Sabre	60	- 1	2.1	19.4
219.80	Time Products	455½	- 9½	3.4	18.6
26.60	UNIECO	253		2.6	16.7
189.90	Vardy (Fred)	335½		2.6	14.6
80.40	Wf Electrt	612		2.7	22.1
33.70	Wilshaw	36	- 2	3.8	19.6
106.00	Wolsel	152½	- 6	2.2	17.8
30.50	Yeang (H)	137½	- 5	3.8	11.9

DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
1,779.00	Electrocomps	417½	- 8½	2.1	25.3
168.60	Exmoor (Benj)	165½	- 4½	3.3	39.7
57.60	Expndlite	138	+ 1½	5.4	14.0
45.50	European Mfg	86½	+ 3	7.7	8.7
79.40	Evans Halshaw	247½	- 6	8.7	
7.83	Fitz Indstrs	50½		8.9	7.6
234.10	Fleming Grp'W	352½	- 25½	2.1	17.9
34.90	Gardner†	32½	- 1½	3.7	12.3
22.00	Glencrestn	73	+ 2	2.3	14.1
9.81	Glentings	98	- 4½	3.5	
28.50	Hunter	99	+ 7½	7.5	9.0
28.20	Hunts (Philip)	254	- 5	4.3	15.5
165.50	Headlam	318½	- 1½	2.3	26.4
5.91	Hopkins Tech	149		5.8	14.0
93.20	ISA Ind	228½	+ 3½	1.6	
1,351.10	Inchcape	255½	- 4½	4.8	21.8
5.67	Jacks (Wms)	52½		4.8	16.1
426.00	Ivens Ind	241½	- 1½	2.9	17.0
398.90	Lex Service†	3431½	- 17½	5.8	11.3
34.70	Ladbroke	184	+ 1	8.6	7.8
21.70	Malcolm Grp	13½	- ½	6.4	
58.00	Middlecrft	71½	- ½	11.3	11.1
19.40	Micklefrn	27	- 2	0.8	
27.20	Morgan	258½	- ½	3.9	7.2
47.70	Northampton	140	- 18½	1.2	8.4
241.50	Pierce P	334	+ ½	3.0	
151.10	Pendragon	390½	- 3	3.2	
53.90	Perry Gp	210½	- 12	5.5	
1,333.60	Pressac Furnell	491	- 21½	3.9	19.7
32.90	Electc Group	142	- 3½	5.7	10.6
78.70	REA	315	- 8½	1.6	37.8
3.88	Rmcos	2½			
19.20	Ransom	21½	- 1½	8.7	7.4
4.43	Rees Gp	3			
25.70	Rylandt	90½	+ 2	5.6	19.7
24.60	SEP Indt†	27½	- 1½	8.0	7.4
14.50	Sabre	60	- 1	2.1	19.4
219.80	Time Products	455½	- 9½	3.4	18.6
26.60	UNIECO	253		2.6	16.7
189.90	Vardy (Fred)	335½		2.6	14.6
80.40	Wf Electrt	612		2.7	22.1
33.70	Wilshaw	36	- 2	3.8	19.6
106.00	Wolsel	152½	- 6	2.2	17.8
30.50	Yeang (H)	137½	- 5	3.8	11.9

ELECTRICITY

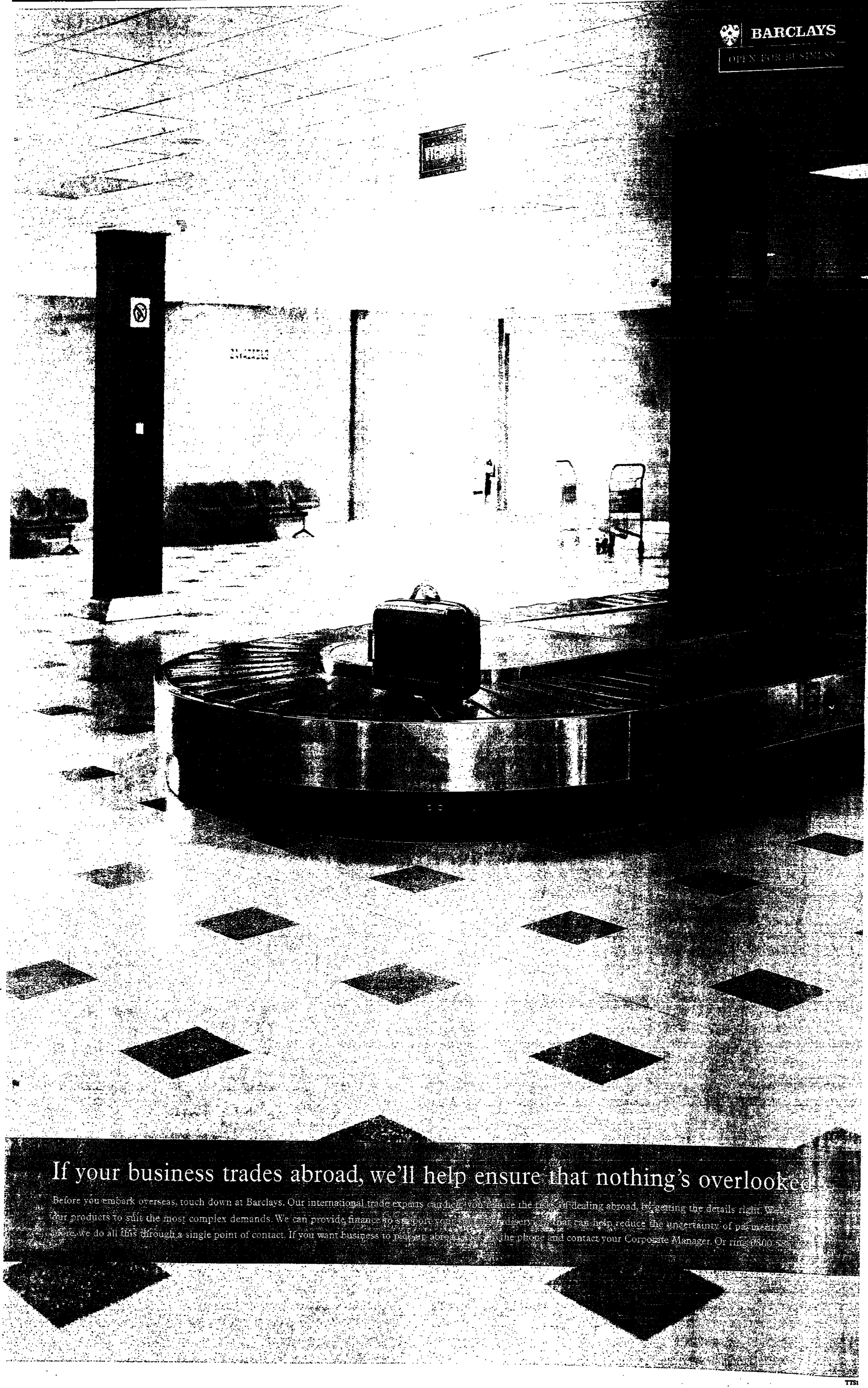
Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
1,810.00	Br Energy PrP	132	- 6	7.4	
1,329.30	East Midlands	676		5.8	9.9
2,446.90	Eastern Energy	493½	- 43½	5.8	9.0
1,230.80	London Elec	708½	- 2	7.3	10.8
3,644.40	Midland Grid	512½	- 1	6.5	8.5
5,787.30	National Power	477½	- 29½	6.2	9.1
650.80	Northern Elec	851		8.4	5.9
521.70	Nthn Ireland	571½	- 12	6.5	5.9
3,767.90	Powergen	581½	- 40½	4.7	9.6
1,366.80	Hydro-Elect	956½	- 8½	5.7	9.1
4,071.90	Scottish Power	342	- 23	6.0	10.2
1,941.50	Southern Elec	706	- 18	7.2	8.8
1,468.30	Yorkshire Elec	823½	+ 21	5.8	12.2

ELECTRONIC & ELECT

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
5,331.90	Arm Hldn	2603½	- 37½	0.4	
146.00	Aggerstan	118	- ½	3.4	35.0
47.00	Brazinsk†	73½	- 8½	9.7	10.0
1,668.40	Britannic	869½	- 3	3.1	20.3
108.90	CMI Insc	127½		4.7	
4,481.40	Cam Instrmt	648	- 48½	2.6	11.7
19.00	Cse Instr	168	- 1	8.2	34.3
144.50	Dem & Gen	2125		3.5	15.7
98.40	FBD IE	2434½	- 7½	3.9	6.7
38.00	Fencheurch Grp	69	- 3	10.0	6.7
42.50	Fenchurch Undrtr	1321½	- 20	7.0	66.4
3,788.10	Gen Academy	764½	- 63	5.6	7.5
2,546.20	GRE	2791½	- 18	3.6	5.6
68.20	Health C E	1010½	- 3½	3.5	16.2
172.30	Interactive IE	1227½	- 2½	2.4	20.9
41.20	Micro Select	137½	- 3½	3.3	42.4
310.50	Independent	1400½	- 2½	3.6	14.0
933.00	Irish Life	930	- 10½	5.0	7.7
305.70	JKF Group	356½	- 6½	4.7	12.7
356.50	Jardine Lyd Thl	999	- 1	6.4	
28.69	Kim Control	37½		3.8	34.6
98.60	Landcorn Fen	111½	- 5	4.5	28.4
4,821.30	Legal & Gen	1000	- 4	3.8	23.0
4,247.20	Liberty Life†	1400	- 11½	4.5	
139.90	London & Man	365.40			
365.40	London Ins Mkt	130½	- 1½	5.7	35.1
5,619.20	Marsh McLn	4611½	- 309½	2.9	
47.30	Meinhard	111	-	2.9	
57.20	Nelson Hurst	126		8.0	
65.10	New London Cap	108½	- 1	3.5	39.3
38.00	Oldham	75	- 1	6.9	8.3
38.20	Onet	116½	- 3½	3.6	
30.00	Premium Trust	101	- ½	4.8	25.4
22.00	Provincial Linde	166½	- 2		
10,741.00	Prudential	558	- 38	4.8	12.0
5.46	PWS1	17½		4.6	10.6
6,857.60	Royal & Sun All	446	- 33	5.3	12.6
344.80	St James Place	124	- 9		
863.20	Sedgwick	121	- 8	6.6	10.4
14.00	Steel Burrill	255½	- 7½		7.6
1,523.60	Sun Life & P	729	- 20½	7.4	13.9
67.50	Syndicate Capl	125	- 4½	3.0	39.2
1,702.10	Utd Assurance	984½	- 30½	7.7	51.4
79.30	Wellington	119		8.5	10.2
655.70	Willis Corroon	156	- 6½	5.5	13.1
7.63	Windsor†	19½	- 1½	4.8	6.3

ENGINEERING

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
74.90	ABM	520	+ 25	1.7	18.4
199.50	APV	67		5.2	
24.60	ASW	210		4.8	
1,521.50	Alstom†	3071½	+ 1½	3.3	13.1
87.10	Alvis	142	+ 4	2.6	15.8
74.20	Ash & Lacy	200	- ½	4.2	15.0
45.80	Atlas Copco	652½		4.3	13.6
10.40	Aprthore Mrkt†	104½	- ½	2.2	
1,582.00	BBA†	3611½	- 1	2.4	19.4
53.10	BWI	111	- 5	7.5	9.0
101.80	Babcock	60	+ 2½	4.0	
4.87	Bailey (CH)	9½	- 1		6.3
101.00	Bamfords	1187½	+ 1½	3.2	
18.60	Beaklord	40	+ 1½	2.4	
49.80	Bellis Engy	50	- 2	4.2	
204.50	Berkeley Inv	134	+ 2½	4.2	22.6
3.88	Bilton	6½		4.7	40.2
746½	Bodycote	42½	- 12	12.3	31.0
3.40	Booth Inds	42½			
18.90	Bowsey	23½	- 2½	4.6	9.2
85.20	Boston	114	- ½	4.8	
5,700.00	Br Aerospace†	1332½	- 36½	1.5	19.7
3,305.00	Br Steel	162½	- 6½	7.7	6.1
9.12	Brooke Tool	128	- 12	3.1	7.7
20.50	Bryant	118½	- ½	4.2	11.7
133.70	BuHeight	165		2.5	24.7
57.60	Burnfield	122.40		3.9	6.7
122.40	Carclo Eng	199	+ 10	6.8	10.4
111.10	Cardpc	259½	- 12	2.2	16.4
9.99	Chamberlin Hal	125	- 2½	4.0	10.7
34.40	Chantrey	145	- 38½	9.9	6.4
46.00	Clyde Blowers	351		2.8	16.9
544.60	Cobham	587½	- 10	2.1	21.9
4.20	Coken (A)	400			
139½	Concentric	139½	- 9½	5.2	10.4
78.70	Cook (Wm)	421		3.9	14.0
138.40	Dowd Brown	208½	+ 7	4.7	12.5
186.10	EIS	352½	- 6½	4.7	12.7
5.98	Elecs	66	- 5½	5.7	6.8
51.80	Elsy(Bill)	117½	+ ½	3.8	18.5
74.50	Equistert	185	- 11½	3.7	15.3
1,053.70	FII	1565½	- 7	3.2	38.7
145.20	Fenner	51½	- 2		16.8



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TTS1

YOUR HOME IS AT RISK IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS

Next to publish catalogue of healthy figures

COMPANIES

NEXT: The success story from Britain's premier high street fashion retailer is set to continue with full-year figures on Wednesday. Judging by the Christmas trading statement, these figures should be fairly impressive, with pre-tax profits expected to grow almost 30 per cent from £125 million to £159 million. Earnings growth should be even stronger, with a 31 per cent increase pencilled in from 23.1p to 30.3p.

Sales of the group's retailing arm grew 24 per cent in the 24 weeks to January 1, bolstered by a 5 per cent increase in selling space. But as David Jones, chief executive, is only too happy to point out, the real boost to sales came from Next Directory, which was up 26 per cent. The overall increase in group sales was 16 per cent.

According to NatWest Securities, costs have risen about 13 per cent, although gross margins will have grown 0.5 per cent. Shareholders are expected to be rewarded with a near-30 per cent rise in the payout from 11.75p to 15p net.

P&O: Full-year figures tomorrow, are likely to bear the scars of a £50 million to £60 million hit relating to its cross-Channel ferry operations. However, these write-offs are likely to be countered, to an extent, by an improved contribution from its cruise and property development arms.

Overall, pre-tax profits are expected to be down about £30 million at £290 million with earnings per share showing an 11 per cent decline at 33.9p.

Brokers say the decline in profitability should prove short-lived as the benefits of restructuring filter through this year. These will include improved efficiency in both the container and, subject to regulatory approval, the ferry operations. In the current year the group also expects to complete the merger with Stena, the demerger of Bovis Homes, the withdrawal from bulk shipping and the proposed disposal of £500 million worth of property.

The payout is likely to be held at 30.5p.

BLUE CIRCLE: A stronger second-half performance is envisaged at home after the 21 per cent profits shortfall at Blue Circle Industries in the first six months.

The group's involvement in the three strongest cement markets in the world will bolster the overall profit, to be unveiled today, by 11 per cent, from £273 million to £303 million, with earnings per share up from 21.4p to 23.6p. The dividend is expected to grow from 12.5p to 13.2p.

INCHCAPE: The measures taken by the new management and stronger performances from its core operations should mean that improved full-year figures are unveiled today.

Pre-tax profits are likely to be up 13 per cent at £166 million, while earnings will have grown 22 per cent to 17.1p. The payout is likely to be 5 per cent higher at 10.5p.

A recovery is expected in the vehicle import and distribution operation where a combination of new models, the return to profitability of the European arm and the weaker Japanese yen will have proved beneficial. The only drag will come from weaker car sales in Hong Kong and Singapore. An improvement is also expected in the marketing division after rationalisation, while further investment in its Coca-Cola bottling plants in Russia will have held back profits.

CARADON: The benefits of recent rationalisation will be a key feature when full-year figures are announced on Wednesday, with pre-tax profits expected to be 17 per cent ahead at £176.7 million compared with £151.6 million last time. Earnings will also have grown 16 per cent to 15.9p, but the payout is likely to show only a small increase to 9.7p compared with 9.5p last time.

Cost savings of £30 million were achieved in the first half with that figure growing to £54 million for the year, while US windows and doors will return to the black.

REDLAND: A disappointing performance across Europe will result in a downturn in pre-tax profits of almost a third to £252 million when the group reports on Thursday. Earnings per share are expected to drop from 30.6p to 21.3p, while it is hoped that the dividend will be pegged at 16.7p.

TAYLOR WOODROW: The gradual recovery in the housing market should provide the biggest thrust to the group's performance. Pre-tax profits tomorrow will be about £66.5 million compared with £53 million last time, while earnings per share are likely to be up from 8.9p to 11.3p. The contracting arm will have made efforts to break even after recent losses. The dividend should grow from 3p to 3.5p.

BOOKER: A sharp drop in profits is on the cards when the food distribution group reports full-year results tomorrow. Pre-tax profits are expected to slump from £90.2 million to £27 million, after restructuring charges of £77 million. Earnings will slump from 26p to a loss of 5p in the wake of last year's rights issue and the increased number of new shares in issue. Brokers are hoping for a 3 per cent rise in the payout to 23.8p.

MORGAN CRUCIBLE: The expected downturn in growth during the second half failed to materialise and profits in the second six months are now expected to match those of the first. As a result, overall profits at the pre-tax level are expected to come out today at £98.5 compared with £85.1 million last time. Earnings should be up from 25.1p to 28.3p while the payout is likely to be lifted from 13.8p to 14.5p.

MICHAEL CLARK



David Jones has seen the success of Next Directory give a boost to Next's sales

ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

Increase is forecast for US rates

THE key event for financial markets this week is the Federal Open Market Committee's meeting tomorrow amid widespread expectation that US interest rates will be raised. After last week's testimony to Congress by Alan Greenspan, Fed Chairman, in which he spoke of the strength of the economy and the importance of pre-emptive action against inflation, the markets believe that the Fed Funds rate will be raised by 0.25 per cent.

Britain's economic agenda is fairly light. Interest rates will be centre stage on Wednesday when Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, and Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, hold their monthly discussion of monetary policy. The general expectation is that the Bank will again seek a quarter-point on base rates and that Mr Clarke will continue to say "no" right up until the election.

Today sees publication of final figures for fourth-quarter gross domestic product, expected to leave quarterly growth unchanged at 0.8 per cent and year-on-year growth unchanged at 2.7 per cent.

January figures for global visible trade are expected to show a deficit of £710 million on Wednesday, according to a consensus of forecasts compiled by MMS International, against December's £845 million shortfall. February non-European Union trade is predicted to show a deficit of £565 million, against January's £398 million shortfall.

In Europe, the most important figures will be Germany's March cost of living data, expected to show a modest drop in the annual inflation rate after an upward blip earlier this year. In January, the rate jumped to 1.8 per cent, from 1.4 per cent in December, before easing to 1.7 per cent in February. In France, figures on Friday are expected to show unemployment stuck at 12.7 per cent in February.

JANET BUSH

RESULTS AND STATISTICS

TODAY

Interims: GR Holdings, Northern Leisure, Prolific Income, SCI Entertainment. **Finals:** Amey, Blue Circle Industries, Brammer, Capital & Regional Properties, Datrontech Group, EBC Gp, Fired Earth, Forth Ports, Global Gp, How Gp, Inchcape, Kingspan Gp, Morgan Crucible, Nestor-BNA, Newport Holdings, Nottingham Gp Hldgs, Omnicare, Padang Senang Hldgs, PPL Therapeutics, Scruttons, Seafield Resources, Serif, Severfield-Reeve, Sharpe & Fisher, Transtec, Travis Perkins, T&S Stores, Ulster TV, VCI, Waterford Wedgwood. **Economic statistics:** UK final GDP (Q4), UK balance of payments (Q4), Insee report on French economy.

TOMORROW

Interims: Allied London Properties, Burn Stewart Distilleries, FBD Holdings, Kier Gp, Scottish Metropolitan. **Finals:** Accelectric, William Baird, Booker, Bostrom, Cattles, Fleming Mercantile, Hamleys, Hodder Headline, Holders Technology, Hunting, Kingsbury Group, London & Manchester, London Securities, Macfarlane Gp, Alfred McAlpine, Meristem, New Ireland Hldgs, P&O, Quality Software Products, Roskel, Scholl, SIG, Singer & Friedlander, Sun Life & Provincial, Taylor Woodrow, Tudor, Vero Gp, Whatman. **Economic statistics:** API weekly oil supply statistics.

WEDNESDAY

Interims: Barratt Developments, City Technology, McKechnie, MJ Gleeson Group, Provend Gp, FW Thorpe. **Finals:** Avonside Group, Ben Bailey Construction, Biocompatibles International, A&C Black, Brake Brothers, Bridon, British Fittings Gp, Caradon, Croda International, Clinton Cards, Dawsongroup, Fortis, Fulmar, Garton Engineering, Healthcall, Malden Gp, Next, Nichols (Vinto), Quicks Gp, Ruberoid, Swan Hill Group, TLS, UK Safety, Unichem, Unicorn International, Wolstenholme Rink. **Economic statistics:** UK global trade in goods (January), non-EU trade in goods (February).

THURSDAY

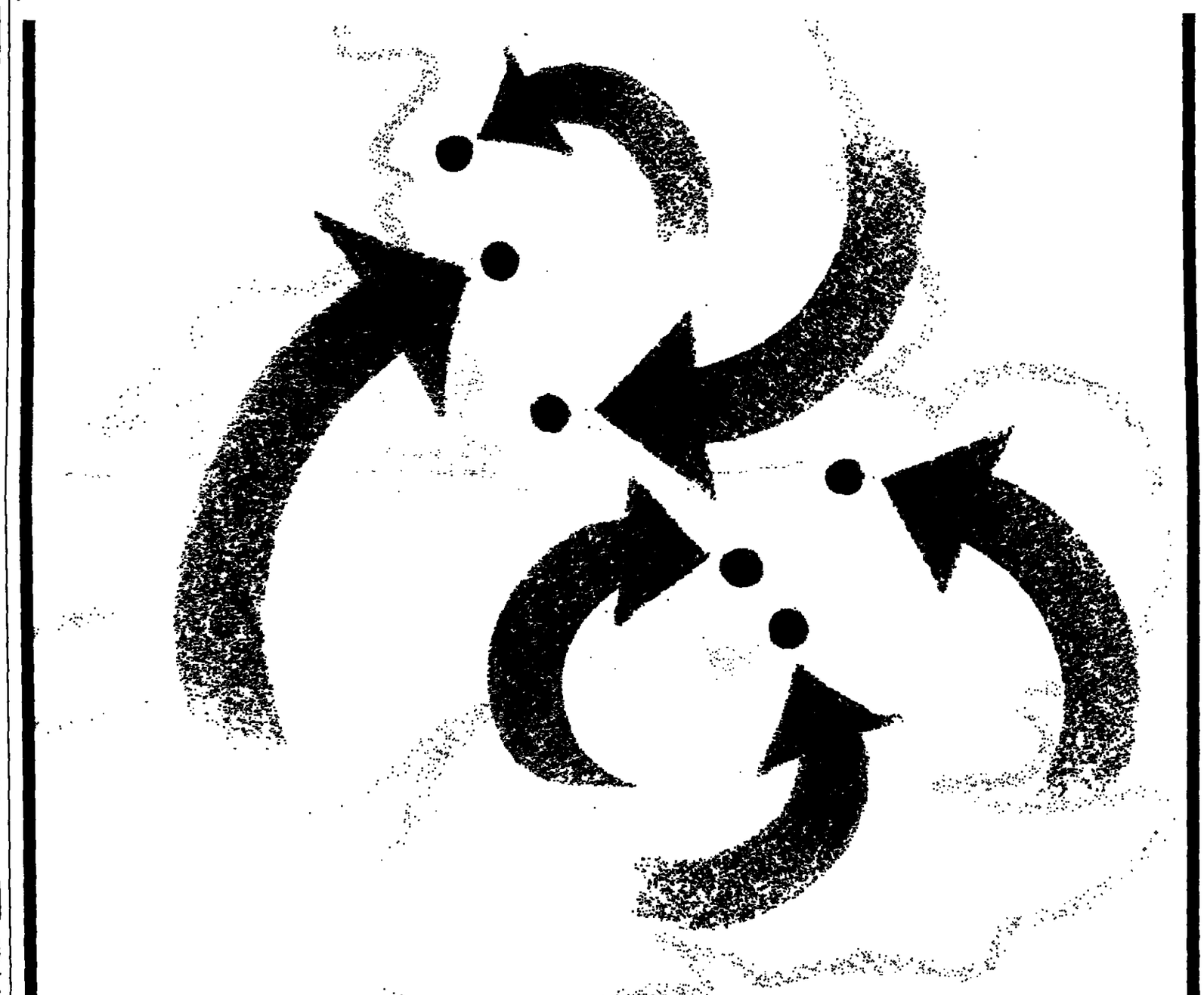
Interims: Baillie Gifford Japan, DCS Gp, L Gardiner Gp, Trafford Park Estates. **Finals:** Brockbank Gp, Foreign & Colonial US Smaller, Hepworth, Meltek, MTL Instruments Gp, Norco Hldgs, Redland, Rushmere Wynne Gp, Slough Estates. **Economic statistics:** US weekly jobless claims report.

FRIDAY

Bank holiday

SUNDAY TIPS

The Sunday Times: *Buy* Racal Electronics, ED&F Man; *Sell* Newcastle United. **The Sunday Telegraph:** *Buy* Pearson, Frost Group, Upton & Southern. **The Observer:** *Buy* Next. **The Mail on Sunday:** *Buy* BP, SEC Group, Stadium. **Independent on Sunday:** *Buy* Capital and Regional Properties, BTR, Tomkins. **Sunday Business:** *Buy* Iceland, Heywood Williams, Eurocamp.



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OYSTEL

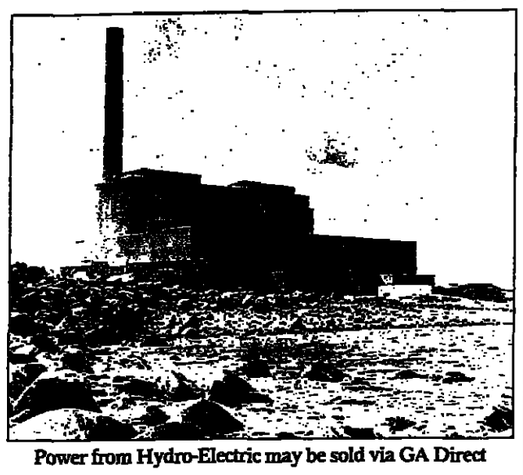
Hydro-Electric and GA Direct test cross-selling

BY CHRISTINE BUCKLEY
INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

A SHOT in the battle for household electricity consumers will be fired today when General Accident Direct, the insurance company, joins Hydro- Electric in an alliance that could lead to a national energy marketing vehicle.

The two Perth-based companies are linking — more than a year before the opening of the domestic market to competition — in an affinity trial to see whether customers of each company respond well to cross-marketing. If the trials of 40,000 homes nationwide prove successful, the two could strike an alliance that would be one of the first national marketing drives in energy.

Two groups of 20,000 homes will be sent a mailshot by Hydro-Electric and GA Direct. Hydro-Electric's letter will go to a cross-section of its customers in the north of Scotland promoting GA Direct and offering discounts on insurance. Interested customers would then have to approach GA Direct, rather than the electricity company. GA Direct's letter will target 20,000 of its customers in England and Wales giving information about Hydro-Electric as an energy supplier. The insurance company will enclose an energy survey and the offer of entry into a prize draw for those homes that reply.



Power from Hydro-Electric may be sold via GA Direct

Dennis Barnes, Hydro-Electric's channels development manager, said: "This is an important first step for Hydro-Electric in advance of competition in the British electricity market. The choice of GA Direct as an affinity partner offers a mutually beneficial opportunity which both companies are keen to grasp."

Many companies with big customer bases, such as mail order firms and insurers, are interested in the dawn of competition in electricity. However, with competition not due to start until next April, few have been willing to commit themselves to participate.

Hydro-Electric and GA will have response rates of their trial mailshots monitored by an independent company.

Investors seek to recover $14m

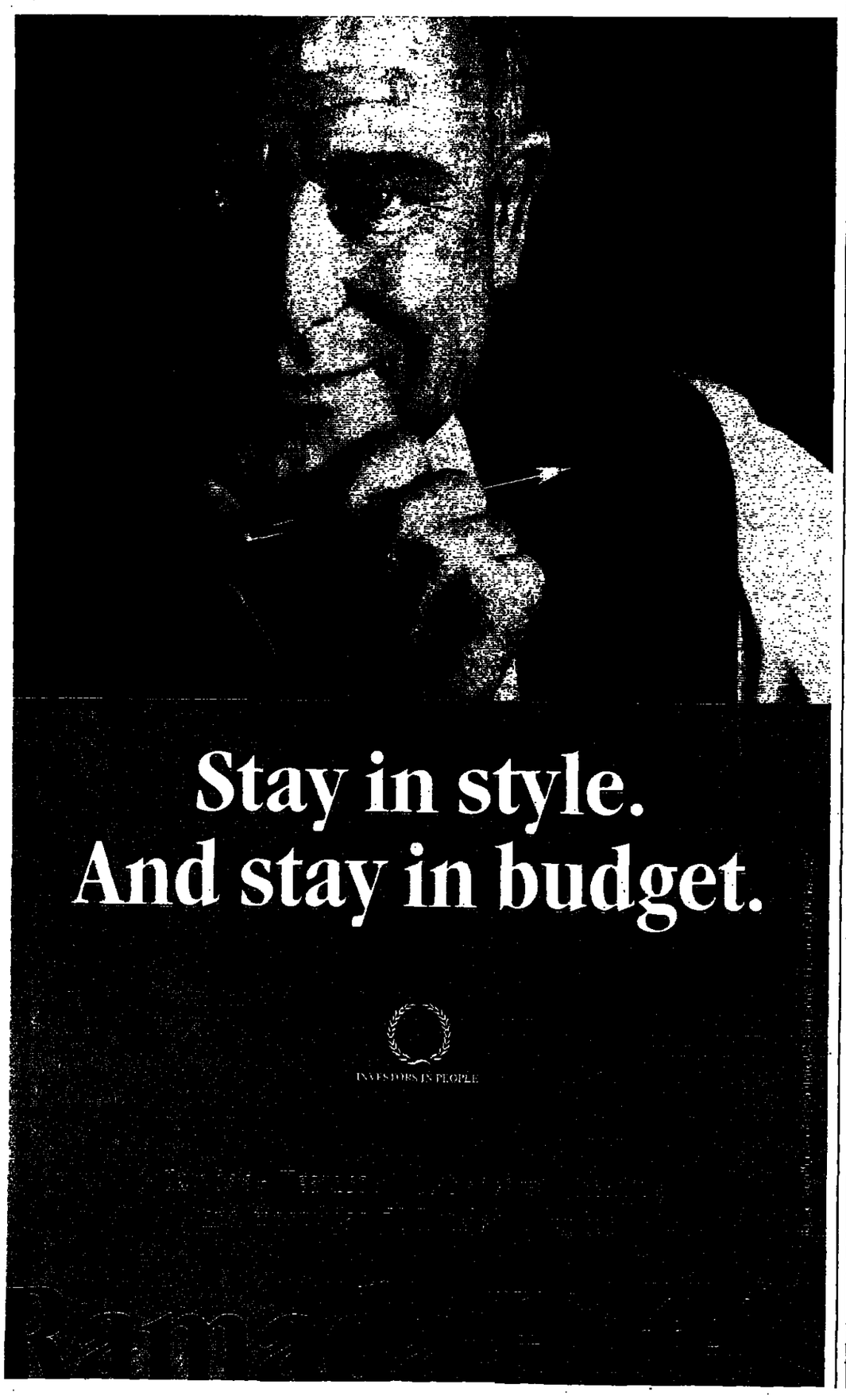
BY JON ASHWORTH

FOURTEEN hundred German investors caught up in an alleged "advanced fee" fraud have launched an action in the High Court in London to try to recover more than $14 million.

Gerhard Martens, a German national on remand in Exeter Prison, is named in the action, which relates to Operation Labis, an investigation by the Serious Fraud Office (SFO) and Devon and Cornwall Police. Herr Martens, based in Torquay since the mid-Eighties, was arrested in September 1995 and charged with conspiracy to defraud.

West Country fraud squad officers carried out raids in connection with an alleged international "advanced fee" fraud ring, in which investors are believed to have lost £100 million. The practice involves investors paying a large upfront fee for a line of credit that is never forthcoming.

The action, brought by three German investment clubs, is directed at Allgemeine Handels und Effecten Bank, a Delaware-registered company that was controlled by Herr Martens.



Gokal trial jury to reconvene

Jurors in the Old Bailey trial of Abbas Gokal, former head of the Gulf Group, are to resume deliberations today. The jury retired on Friday after a summing-up by Mr Justice Buxton. The jurors were later sent home for the weekend.

Mr Gokal, 61, denies one count of false accounting and a second of conspiracy to defraud. He is alleged to have conspired with officials of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI) to falsify documents with a view to enabling BCCI secretly to fund the Gulf Group.

He is further alleged to have conspired with BCCI officials to create a financial structure designed to deceive Price Waterhouse, BCCI's auditor. The structure was allegedly controlled by, although not traceable to, the Gulf Group, and was designed to channel funds to Gulf from BCCI.

The court has heard that the Gulf was indebted to BCCI by $1.2 billion. The jury was told that Mr Gokal fled to Pakistan in 1992, shortly before Swiss police raided his Geneva office. He was arrested in Frankfurt two years later, when his US-bound flight put down to refuel.

Lloyd's case

The first in a series of hearings to address alleged fraud in Lloyd's of London is to resume in the High Court today. A number of names are refusing to pay funds owed under the Lloyd's reconstruction plan, alleging that they were fraudulently induced to begin underwriting. Lloyd's says that they entered third-party agreements and are obliged to pay, whatever the outcome of future legal action.

Sensor's £1m

Sensor Highway, an oil services company, is raising £1 million from 3i, the venture capital group, to fund new product development. The company was set up in 1995 to produce optical fibre sensors and optical processing systems to monitor conditions in oil and gas wells.

Split the export and domestic cycles to contain inflation

The gilt market is understandably focused on the general election, but it may be more appropriate for it to consider the election of 2002. Why? First, because that result seems more uncertain.

Even allowing for a big forecasting error, the opinion polls indicate a clean sweep for Labour this time. Some will say the polls suggested a similar result in 1992 and were wrong. However, in spite of the Tories' eventual lead of more than 7.5 per cent in the popular vote in 1992, equal to about 2.5 million votes, they came within a whisker of losing their overall majority, a total of fewer than 2,500 votes spread in the 11 closest contests would have done the trick for Labour. Furthermore, Labour's lead in the opinion polls is now far greater than in 1992.

It would therefore seem appropriate for the gilt market to discount the consequences of Labour winning. What is less likely is that they will be able to plan for two terms. Much of the first term will be spent establishing their credibility (given memories of policy mistakes in the 1970s). It will not be until the second term that the full impact of any major reforms will be felt.

A second reason to concentrate on the first election of next century is that, by then, a clearer picture of European Monetary Union should be available. The market's working assumption is that the UK will not be a full member of it until then. Hence the large yield premium on gilts over European bonds. However, if policy in the coming economic cycle delivers structural budget deficits and inflation that appear favourable by comparison with our European neighbours, any future entry by Britain will be from a position of strength. This contrasts with the present position, in which we are deemed to trail Europe on these criteria.

Although much progress has been made in reducing budget deficits and inflation, there is still much to do. UK inflation is still at an underlying trend rate higher than our European neighbours. According to estimates by BZW, the UK should have a 3 per cent trend rate by the end of this year. This compares with estimates of 1.7 per cent for Germany and 1.9 per cent for France. Only Italy, with 3.5 per cent, would exceed the UK.

The budget deficit position looks better, although largely for cyclical, rather than structural, reasons. Securing a structural budget deficit that is low by UK standards and by those expected to prevail in Europe would also strengthen our position. How can this nirvana be achieved? Essentially by prolonging the economic growth cycle while containing inflation.

Inflation could be contained by decoupling the domestic cycle from the export cycle. In the past, the UK economy has overheated when export demand accelerated and this coincided with a strong domestic economy. Given that we are a very open economy, the impact of export expansion is proportionately large. Attempts are already being made to stimulate economic growth in Europe, our closest trading area, and although these may have limited success in 1997, there is more likelihood that 1998 will see growth accelerate. Hence it becomes more important to ensure that the domestic economy is not roaring ahead then. The solution is to put the brakes on the domestic economy now. Higher interest rates and tighter fiscal policy can do this. The bias should be towards the latter, to avoid unnecessary risks with export competitiveness. Too high a rise in interest rates could send sterling soaring, denting the export cycle just when domestic demand is being slowed down. Tighter fiscal policy may prove a more effective way of reducing domestic demand and may be speedier, cutting the budget deficit quite early in the new fiscal year.

Successful parting of the domestic and export cycles ought to cut medium-term inflation pressure, but could dent corporate earnings. So, this strategy is likely to have a more favourable response from the gilt market than the equity market. However, applying the brakes early in the new electoral cycle should help to narrow the spread of UK gilt yields over German bonds; we would not be surprised to see it down to 100bp this year. It would also help to ensure that the next economic recovery coincides with the next election. Labour strategists savouring a big majority could be forgiven for fine-tuning their medium-term plans.

MICHAEL HUGHES
BZW

ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENT MARKET

Medusa valuation expected to be £13m

MEDUSA PETROLEUM, a new oil and gas company, is to join the Alternative Investment Market next month at an expected value of £13 million (Fraser Nelson writes). The company, which owns what were formerly the two Czech subsidiaries of Tullow Oil, is raising £8 million through a placing of 11.5 million shares at 50p. Medusa, which also has exploration interests in Ireland and Italy, is coming to the market as it returns deepening losses of £67,000 (£4,000 loss) for the year to June 30, on sales down to £33,000, from £41,000. It says that this is because of lower consultancy income and higher exploration costs. It expects to start drilling oil by mid-1998.

The fall in the main market dragged the FT-SE AIM index down by 18.4 points last week, to close at 1,109.10.

1996/97 High	1996/97 Low	Mkt cap (million)		Price pence	Wkly +/−	Yld %	P/E
150½	100½	11.20	AEA Systems	112½	...	...	...
153½	109	21.60	AIMCO Corp	151½	...	5.1	11.0
422½	67	66.90	AND Int Pub	326½	− 11	...	...
107½	18	5.64	Abacus Resrcs	112½	− 2½	0.6	19.8
155½	99½	21.90	Access Plus	155½	− 15	3.9	20.0
161	45	8.50	Active Imaging	46½	− 4½	...	...
210	123	29.50	A de Gunzburg	230	...	3.9	18.8
20½	7½	10.30	Aican Gold	10	− ½	...	21.2
117½	66	48.10	Aritech	115½	− 1	...	...
44½	13	14.20	Attercaste & Sd	37½	− 5	0.8	16.1
58	29½	8.56	Atizyme	43½	+ 7	...	...
24	0½	0.37	Alpha Omikron	3½	...	...	...
111½	101½	3.10	Anglo-Welsh	101½	− 2	3.0	...
525	390	49.10	Ann St Brewery	512½	− 2½	4.8	11.6
1125	885	6.64	Ann St Cv Pf	1120	...	7.1	...
121	48	65.70	Anteccor	90	− 3½	...	...
148½	120½	20.70	Antech	120½	− 2	...	...
100½	100	10.20	Archer Dedicated	100	...	1.0	55.6
9	7	1.65	Arien Props	7	− ½	...	51.7
115	29½	51.90	Ashanti	60	...	...	...
215	68	33.00	Ask Central	205	− 5	...	...
64½	55	1.16	Athelney Trust	64½	...	...	...
149½	123	43.50	BATM Adv Comms	140	− ½	...	...
68	47½	9.17	Barbican Health	47½	− 2½	...	...
8	5½	11.50	Barnsford	7½	...	...	...
4¼	2½	6.13	Beechcroft	3½	...	...	9.0
4¼	2½	6.23	Beaufort	3½	...	...	34.5
90½	40	6.05	Bilston Bttrsea	68	+ ½	2.8	...
165	140	1.11	Bowness Leis	162½	...	3.5	7.0
70	41	9.11	Brancote Hldgs	52½	− 3	...	...
107	87	3.84	Br Bloodstock	91	...	2.1	26.0
535	240	63.70	Brockbank	520	− 2½	1.8	16.8
167½	116	17.80	CA Coutts Hldgs	165½	− 2	2.3	...
188	120½	8.97	C & B Publishing	175	...	...	...
110	109½	0.12	CCI Founder Sts	109½	...	...	...
170½	116	1.36	CCI Hldgs	170½	+ 5½	1.9	7.6
213	95	5.43	Cafe Inns	190	− 7½	1.6	14.6
75	55	7.35	Caledonian Tst	60	− 10	...	10.2
3½	3	3.25	Calidore Group	3½	...	...	...
1½	0½	1.60	Calidore Grp Wts	1	...	...	...
47½	27½	39.80	Card Clear	46	+ 2½	...	...
108	70½	7.15	Carisbrooke Ship	78½	− 10	6.2	6.6
72	48	3.11	Cassidy Bros	57	...	6.6	14.7
57½	41	2.37	Cavendish W	54½	− ½	3.4	25.1
21	16	5.86	Celebrated Group	17	...	2.0	15.0
5350	6850	91.30	Celtic	£315	−3500	...	...
£450	6450		Celtic Pf Sts	£275	−1500	...	...
124	96½	14.50	Ch Comms(TV)	107½	...	3.3	12.7
63	55	13.80	Charlton Athltc	63	...	...	...
9	5¼	7.75	Charterhouse	7¼	− ¼	...	16.2
86	35½	4.07	Charnwill Ind	35½	...	...	...
170	53	195.00	Chelsea Village	130	+ 1½	...	...
265	110	14.30	Chemical Design	220	− 10	...	35.1
202½	77½	8.42	Circle Comms	77½	− 2½	...	5.9
110	110	0.99	Clan Homes	110	...	...	72.7
35	2½	1.05	ClubPartners	2½	...	...	...
542½	485	12.70	Com de Pri Fin	527½	...	2.4	10.2
30	14	11.10	Concurrent Tech	23½	+ 2	0.5	37.1
150	85	0.25	Conc Tech A Pf	100	− 50	...	...
150	85	0.20	Conc Tech B Pf	100	− 50	...	...
200	115	1.01	Conc Tech Rd Pf	150	− 25	...	...
275	150	0.13	Conc Tech Cv Pf	175	−100	...	...
44	36½	8.91	Cookstar Tst	40½	+ 1	6.2	10.0
4½	2	3.90	Corporate Exec	2½	...	...	12.6
185½	58	31.80	Country Gdns	172½	− 10	1.2	...
145	88	5.13	Cntry Gdns Pf	140	...	4.7	...
109	22½	8.08	Creos Intl	22½	...	...	...
345	190	4.08	Crown Eye	255	...	6.1	8.2
63	17	9.33	Crown Products	20	− 3	...	...
850	152	84.90	DBS Management	807½	+ 12½	2.2	17.7
36	18½	0.89	Dalkeith Inns	18½	− 1	...	...
92½	80½	4.95	David Glass	91½	+ 1	6.8	10.5
150	120½	5.27	Dawn Trl Dusk	150	+ 10½	...	11.6
2550	860	136.10	Dawson Hldgs	2437½	− 50	2.1	18.7
17	10½	5.68	Dean Corp	14½	...	1.7	12.8
174½	155½	10.80	Deep Sea Leisure	169½	− 3	...	22.7
5	2½	3.55	Dominastar	2½	...	...	78.2
460	305	54.70	Dicom	430	+ 5	0.5	17.6
111	78	15.10	Digital Animtn	102½	...	...	...
67½	50½	12.90	Dmatek	68	+ 3½	...	...
270	240	12.20	Dobbies Garden	260	...	2.2	16.4
4½	2½	2.11	Drings of Bath	2½	...	...	13.4
137	397	3.92	Easynet	50½	− 5½	...	...
445	148	67.30	Elec Retail Sys	320	+ 10	...	...
200	33½	35.20	Electrophoretics	55	+ 4	...	...
116	8½	1.98	Epic Multimedia	9½	− 3½	...	...
65	50	15.50	Epicore Ndwks	60	...	...	...
316	190	8.38	Erasmia Mining	226	+ 15	...	...
125	120	5.62	Euro Sales Fin	125	...	...	...
220	118	16.90	Eve Group	172½	...	1.1	...
475	310	7.86	Fairtex	310	− 20	...	20.6
77½	41	3.54	Fayrewood	67½	− 5	0.7	13.3
191½	102½	64.10	Filamat	172½	+ 7½	...	...
77½	52½	3.02	Fishbens	60½	...	3.1	8.0
265	75	6.38	Flat Packs	227½	− 7½	...	7.9
183	8½	2.53	Flat Inter	12½	− ½	...	...
200	90½	46.50	Fitness First	185½	− 25	...	64.9
266	188	5.12	Flomerics	200	− 10	1.9	...
343	253	8.56	Floral St	285	...	0.7	...
45	32½	6.53	FNFI Hldgs	32½	...	...	...
198	113½	13.50	Formscan	127½	− 1	...	12.8
110½	79½	9.44	Fountain Forest	107½	− 3	3.2	16.6
51¼	14	179.60	Freepages	46½	− ¼	...	...
175½	93	10.50	Furlong Homes	175	+ 2½	2.4	11.9
144½	122½	16.00	Future Int Telep	144½	+ 7	...	...
286	129½	13.30	GB Railways	152½	− 12½	...	...
23	13	6.10	Gabriel Trust	17	...	...	56.9
63	52½	16.30	Gall Thomson Env	52½	...	...	9.9
15¾	8¼	42.20	Gender Hldgs	14½	− ¼	...	...
109½	77½	76.10	Gartland W&B	87½	− 5	0.5	7.9
113½	53½	91.50	Geo Int Media	91½	− 2	...	...
23½	12	25.90	Gold Mines Sard	20	+ 2½	...	...
13½	7	6.95	Gold Mns Sard Wts	13	+ 4	...	...
124½	114½	42.20	Goshawk Insce	124½	...	...	...
15¼	13¼	1.72	Grosvenor Ltd	14¼	...	...	...
150	145	32.70	Gulton	145	...	3.8	12.8
280	169	33.50	HIT Entertain	300	− 20	...	...
41	8¼	2.38	Hansom	8¼	− 1	...	...
175	150	11.80	Hardy Underwty	161	...	...	...
77½	53	3.42	Hat Pln	77½	+ 5½	4.5	...
315	155	7.12	Headline	315	...	2.8	18.4
270	180	10.60	Hemdean A	270	...	3.2	14.0
140	48	4.61	Hemcules Prop	140	+ 5	...	7.6
175	87½	11.50	Highland Sys	139	− 15	...	19.0
138	115	150.20	Hiscox	122	...	2.8	...
80	65	1.16	Hurlingham	75	...	...	...
119½	104½	7.23	Hydro-Dynamic	107½	...	1.4	...
297	138	23.80	IDS	156	+ 11	1.3	48.4
98	65	18.80	Ind Brit Health	73½	− ½	1.7	10.3
116	55½	8.53	Indpt Energy	65	− ½	...	...
134	105	23.70	Indpt Radio	132½	− 1	...	...
179	141½	32.70	Infobank Int	170	− 5	...	...
88	42½	11.60	Inner Workings	80½	+ 6	...	...
88	63	14.90	Intelligent Env	66½	− 8½	...	48.8
73½	42½	17.60	Internet Tech	64½	− 7	...	...
177	97½	34.20	Interroute Tele	102½	− 2½	...	...
265	167½	33.30	Intl Greetings	265	...	2.6	14.9
179½	108	39.80	IOC Intl	162½	...	...	50.1
155½	122½	13.00	Jacobsville Int	147	− ½	...	...
103	62½	2.67	Jasmin	65½	...	...	10.8

1996/97 High	1996/97 Low	Mkt cap (million)		Price pence	Wkly +/−	Yld %	P/E
345	280	25.10	Jennings Bros	340	− 3	2.5	23.3
4¾	3¾	5.53	J Lewis Hldgs	4	− ¼	...	21.4
74½	48½	9.30	Jordec	57½	...	...	...
5½	2	6.15	Just Group	4	...	...	...
3	1	0.12	Just Group Wts	1	− ½	...	...
132½	82½	55.30	KS Biomedix	131½	...	...	...
52½	47½	5.46	Kean Biver	47½	...	...	...
169	77½	26.00	La Seuze	77½	− 15	...	...
189	130	25.50	Lancashire En	148	...	4.0	13.1
365	210	21.50	Lawrence	350	...	2.5	18.0
3750	2550	62.50	Lamia Group	3350	...	2.5	10.2
358	255	56.60	Le Riches Stks	341	− 12½	6.1	14.3
17	10	0.59	Life Members	10	− 1	...	...
9	2	0.10	Life Members Wts	3	...	...	...
535	425	10.70	Loades	535	...	0.2	50.7
106½	61½	24.80	Lolfus Road	68½	+ 3	...	...
16½	11¼	3.58	Lon & Edin Publ	11¼	...	2.7	8.9
75	55	1.88	London Town	75	+ 5	2.7	14.2
4¾	2¼	4.23	Lotteryking	2½	...	...	32.1
1¾	0¼	0.13	Lotteryking Wts	0¼	...	...	...
135	55	9.08	MMC Petroleum	75	− 3½	...	...
315	147½	29.80	MTL Inst	164	+ 1	3.7	10.3
160	15½	7.52	Magnum Power	16½	− 3	...	...
290½	167½	32.80	Majestic Wine	257½	− 20	...	11.2
25	9¼	8.97	Mann & O'seas	15	− ½	2.7	38.6
125	105	2.40	Matrix Hillcare	105	...	8.0	12.1
12¼	10¼	3.87	Mears Group	10½	...	2.3	...
117	85½	52.50	Megalomedia	90	...	...	50.5
104	79	8.92	Megalomedia Wts	83½	...	...	...
113	62½	4.36	Mellalt	62½	...	5.1	11.5
475	22½	25.10	Memory Corp	47½	− 5	...	...
55	8¼	5.88	Meteor Tech	9½	− ½	...	...
43	8	0.16	Meteor Tech Wts	8½	− ½	...	...
25	18	5.88	Metrodome	24	...	...	...
88½	82½	4.97	Mondas	82½	...	...	...
365	195	26.90	Moorepay	355	+ 5	2.1	...
200	97½	7.38	Moorlandsbal	97½	− 2½	...	8.5
215	147½	39.00	Mothercy Group	195½	− 11	0.5	30.7
89	13½	4.18	MultiMedia	14½	...	...	28.8
21	17	1.40	NECA	19	...	...	8.0
72½	53	2.03	NFP	70½	...	1.8	31.2
340	250	19.00	NWF Grp	250	...	5.3	12.9
210	175	14.10	Nash (Wm)	200	...	4.3	9.2
360	290	7.44	Neill Clerk	290	− 10	3.4	10.5
74½	45½	10.40	Netcall	74½	+ 14	...	...
242	118	70.60	Network Tech	219½	− 8	0.2	31.3
89½	63	1.50	Nichomes	77½	...	...	48.8
76	30½	4.52	Nilin Petfm	39½	− 1	...	...
119½	110½	45.40	Nursing Home	114½	...	4.0	26.1
239½	85½	38.40	Old English Pub	222½	− 3	0.8	68.9
136	84	15.90	Omnicase	134½	...	1.0	20.3
75	6½	1.97	Omnimedia	8	− 1	...	...
102½	62½	2.38	On Line	64½	...	...	...
72½	42½	31.50	Oxford Biomedica	49½	− 3	...	...
123	65	19.10	Lasar	82½	...	...	...
3½	1	45.80	Pacific Media	3½	+ ½	...	...
149½	17½	25.40	Pan Andean Res	57½	...	...	...
225	180	5.38	Park Ests(Liv)	225	+ 5	4.4	16.4
25½	8½	5.82	Pembertons	21	− 4	...	...
106	40½	6.43	Personal Ne Co	41½	− 3½	...	...
337½	100	48.10	Philippine Gd	327½	...	...	...
70½	52½	11.70	Pilat Tech	52½	− 3	...	14.7
184	107	23.70	Polymasc Pharms	118½	− 5	...	...
4	2¼	5.48	Pordum Foods	2½	...	...	...
2	1	0.27	Pordum Fds Wts	1¼	...	...	...
600	400	10.90	Preston Nth E	550	...	...	...
105	100½	15.60	Primary Hlth Pr	103½	...	1.4	...
590	151	76.30	Prism Rail	350	− 10	...	...
122½	119½	19.90	Q Group	119½	...	...	...
1265	379	222.90	Ramco Egy	1087½	− 10	0.1	...
110½	82	11.50	Raphael Zm	107½	− 2	2.3	12.2
127½	94½	20.40	Recycling Servs	125½	+ 3	3.2	...
140	43	9.80	Relisc	118½	...	...	...
6	4¼	3.48	Revelation Pic	5½	+ ½	...	5.2
27	15	17.10	Ricoman Insce	26	...	...	...
99½	63	4.08	Romtec	77½	...	3.0	18.2
4½	2	2.18	Rothmore Wynne	2	...	...	...
1¼	0¼	0.07	Rush Wys Wts	0¼	...	...	...
165	151	17.90	SCI Ent	153½	...	...	...
75	25½	5.76	SEA Multimedia	25½	− 2	...	...
72½	62½	6.96	Sanctuary Music	72½	...	...	...
31	5½	0.52	Scotswood Inds	7½	− ½	8.3	...
57½	23	7.26	Scott Picdorf	57½	...	2.0	20.7
68	28	13.40	Scott Pride	42½	...	...	...
6	3¼	10.10	Screen	5¼	− ½	...	...
350	270	16.80	Scrutton	350	...	4.6	21.6
75	64	14.10	Selector	72	...	...	16.9
80	22½	1.43	Self Sealing	24½	...	...	...
164½	132½	7.90	Shaftsbre	164½	+ 2	3.0	13.5
118	69½	5.33	Shelton (M)	100½	− 3	5.3	12.2
233½	164	26.50	Sinclair Montro	221½	− 2	...	...
5	2¼	2.21	Sirt Bio Strv	3½	− ¼	1.7	24.7
1½	1	0.29	Sirt Bio Wts	1½	...	...	...
3¾	1¾	12.00	Skateboard	1¾	− ¼	...	...
91	80½	5.03	Solid State Sp	80½	− 2	4.3	13.4
43	27	3.98	Soundtrace	33½	+ ¾	3.0	19.8
777	520	187.30	Southern News	777	+ 22	2.9	25.2
297½	173½	26.80	Stallwyn	69½	+ 2	3.4	15.0
635	295	100.30	Stanford Rook	231½	...	0.5	...
201	75	11.70	Stantor	520	− 50	...	...
456	122	49.50	Surrey Fr Ians	169½	− 6	...	...
150	125	14.50	Sutton Harbour	448½	− 13½	0.7	30.9
138	15½	2.08	Syst Integ Rsch	145	...	1.0	20.7
34½	6	4.75	TDS Circuits	15½	...	...	...
138	67½	11.70	Theo Fennell	22½	...	...	...
15	7½	20.20	Thomas Potts	12½	+ 3	...	18.7
56	25½	2.02	Tora Hoskins	11¼	− ¼	0.8	...
152½	150½	24.50	Total Office	26½	...	...	...
915	375	23.60	TRACKER Netwk	192½	...	3.9	9.8
185	85	23.70	Tradepoint Fd	445	− 10	...	...
180	160	5.04	Trinity Care	110	+ 15	...	...
170	165	1.50	Trinity Care Pf	165	− 2	3.7	11.9
79½	33½	181.40	Trocadero	170	+ 3½	5.5	...
258	143	38.40	UNO	36½	− 4	...	...
42	40	3.65	Uawest	274½	− 4	2.0	32.6
456	357½	6.90	Uld Auctions	40	...	...	18.4
280	147½	16.50	VDC	387½	...	2.6	...
26¼	13½	65.90	Versailles Grp	160	+ 1½	4.1	12.7
62	49	93.90	Victory Corp	26¼	+ 2	0.9	24.2
650	97½	3.38	Viewfon	49½	...	...	...
428	232	8.44	Visco Mat	112½	...	...	...
68	46	20.40	Waterlot	240	...	...	...
28	13	5.09	Watermark	79	+ ½	...	20.6
27½	7	8.77	Wedderburn Secs	27	− 1	...	7.9
11	1¼	0.38	Wedd Secs Wts	24½	...	...	...
8¼	5¼	7.90	Weeks Group	11	...	...	...
130	90	3.67	West 175 Enter	6	+ ¼	2.7	10.1
£280	£160	14.60	West Bromwich	95	− 5	...	...
18	12	6.56	Western Selecta	£200	...	...	...
8	3½	0.28	Western Sel Wts	12½	...	...	33.5
84½	28	8.42	Westmount Engy	4½	...	...	...
93	82½	8.40	Whitecross	77½	...	...	...
245	135½	36.10	Whittard Chelsea	82½	− 2	...	...
75	65½	7.85	W'chester M Mkt	227½	− 8	1.3	27.1
145	100	4.10	Wynnstay Props	67½	...	...	...
12½	9	5.36	Xaxier Comp	130	...	4.5	18.8
179½	132½	6.83	Yeoman	178½	...	...	...
348	170	28.70	Zergo	195½	...	...	...
29½	20½	4.72	Zicor Mining	29½	− 2	...	72.8

Minimum wage — minimal impact?

In a survey, 80 per cent of respondents said that they would be unaffected if the price of *The Times* were to increase by 10p. In another survey, 72 per cent of British manufacturers said they could cope with the strong pound. These are fictitious, though plausible, survey results, but they share something in common with a real survey on the subject of the minimum wage published last week by Reed Personnel Services. They each have next to no bearing on the issue at hand.

The Reed survey revealed that "79 per cent of organisations would be unaffected by a national minimum wage of £3.25 an hour". So that's all right then. But what does "unaffected" mean? Would they be unaffected because next to nobody in their employ earned less than £3.25 an hour anyway? Was Goldman Sachs a respondent? It might say that it would be unaffected at ten times that rate.

Or did they mean that their businesses would be unaffected because although their wage bills would rise, so would their competitors', so they could all raise their prices. In that case, their businesses *might* be unaffected, but their customers would not.

Surely the whole point of the minimum wage is that it should affect *something*, namely the wages of people at the bottom end of the income scale. And to imagine that it is possible to engineer such an effect without affecting something else is the economics of the Sunday school.

So the focus should be on those businesses that *would* be affected by a minimum wage. How would they react? Would any adverse consequences offset the gain to those enjoying increased incomes? At its simplest, who pays?

Of course, those who support the minimum wage hope that the gains to low wage earners would accrue at the expense of profits which, in the spirit of *1066 And All That*, are "A Bad Thing". But the danger is that those businesses that are sensitive to the minimum wage will respond by cutting jobs. In that case, those at the bottom of the income distribution who kept their jobs would have gained at the expense of others, also at the bottom, who would have lost.



ROGER BOOTLE

The scale of such an effect depends crucially on the level at which the minimum is set. It would be possible to use the imposition of a minimum wage at a low level to make a grand social statement of values without doing much direct economic harm. But once the minimum was established, it would pose serious dangers for the future — and precisely because of the nature of the social statement. It is essentially saying that prices (in this case, the price of labour) are part of the world of justice and fairness and not simply the signalling mechanism that makes the market system work. It is a harkback to the medieval concept of "the just price". It overrides three sorts of variation that the flexibility of the free market would exploit: the difference in the market worth of different individuals; the change in the market value of labour over time; and the regional variation in the market value of labour. But the real danger with the minimum wage is an indirect one. It would politicise decisions about wages, and would, thereby, threaten a return to the political wrangling about wages that was so debilitating in the Seventies.

Is there nothing for it? There are two reasonable economic arguments. The first is deliciously ironic. In some circumstances, the imposition of a minimum wage will actually create jobs as employers will no longer be faced with the danger of bidding up the price of labour against themselves. (Yes, I *know* this is difficult to follow, but economics textbooks are full of things like this. Any real-world examples on a postcard to me, please).

The second is that in some cases, whether because of physical isolation or ignorance or fear, workers think that they have little choice but to work for a single employer who takes full advantage of this to the direct benefit of profit. In other words, the competitive labour market does not work. There *are* some cases of this sort and there were surely far more in the past. But imposing a national minimum wage to tackle *this* would be like taking a sledgehammer to crack a nut.

One of the worst arguments for the minimum wage is that other countries have one. How much damage they suffer as a result varies with the level. In France, a relatively high minimum has probably made a material contribution to the high level of unemployment.

In the US, the comparatively low level of the minimum has left little impact on the labour market. But the recent increase from $4.25 to $4.75 an hour is starting to have an impact on the level of labour costs, and this may have implications for inflation and interest rates.

The minimum wage belongs to the God, Motherhood and Apple Pie School of Economics. Good intentions are supposed to conquer all. The reality is sadly different. Those of us who worry about the implications are left hoping that if a minimum wage is imposed, it would be set so low as to have only totemic significance. But this would leave something of a problem of presentation for the politicians. Imagine the rallying call: "Support the minimum wage. It leaves everything unaffected!"

Billions of excise duty at risk in Euro-court tussle

FROM A CORRESPONDENT IN BRUSSELS

BILLIONS of pounds of income from excise duty are at risk if the Government loses a case now being considered by the European Court of Justice in Luxembourg.

A company that imported cigarettes from Luxembourg, where they are 40 per cent cheaper, without paying UK excise duty is challenging the UK in the court.

The Enlightened Tobacco Company argues it was acting as an "agent" for private individuals when it imported cigarettes, paying excise duty only in the country of origin. It claims its activities were legal under a 1992 EU directive on the movement of goods subject to duty. The Government says the operation was an abuse of allowances designed to enable travellers to import up to 800 cigarettes at one time, paying duty in the country of origin.

Most member states are behind the UK. The European Commission said the question of who transported the items was a side issue but the company was still in breach of the directive because its operation was a commercial not private one and, therefore, excise duty was payable in country of destination.

BJ Cunningham, director of the company, set up the scheme in November 1994 when he found it difficult to distribute the company's own brand of Death cigarettes through traditional channels. Clients would place orders with a subsidiary in the UK called the Man in Black, trading as Tobacco Direct, which would transfer them to another subsidiary in Luxembourg, called EMU Sarl, which would purchase the cigarettes and send them to the clients' homes.

In its last month of trading the company recorded £350,000 in turnover and had more than 3,000 active clients. Customs and Excise seized the company's consignments almost immediately it began the scheme. The Enlightened Tobacco Company took the Customs and Excise to the High Court in May 1995 and lost. It went to the Court of Appeal, which immediately referred the case to the Luxembourg court.

Mr Cunningham insists he was acting legally. "In law we are 100 per cent correct. Europe means the freedom of movement of goods and people. I do not see why my tax should be going to the Government. I do not see why I can't shop abroad and get the same benefits as other Europeans."

Imperial Tobacco, which intervened in the case on the side of the UK, says that £10 billion of government revenue from value-added tax and excise duty on tobacco is at stake.

The Attorney-General will deliver his opinion on April 17, which will be influential when the court makes its final ruling by September.



The launch of a weekly version of *Lloyd's List* in Japanese is marked by a team of executives from LLP, the title's publisher, from left, David Gilbertson, Michael Gray, John Quilter and Bob James, with translator Takashi Furukawa

UK companies told to prepare for EMU

BY GRAHAM SEARJEANT, FINANCIAL EDITOR

BRITISH companies must prepare now for Europe's monetary union even if the UK stays out, a report from the 100 Group of finance directors argues.

The group, in conjunction with KPMG, the accountant, found that apart from obvious money and cash implications, the move would lead to costly changes in anything from retail pack sizes to sources of corporate finance.

Few UK firms expect the UK to be in the first wave of countries set to start monetary union in 1999. But it could be in a second wave that would introduce the euro in cash payments in 2002. The report says the period of changeover, when the euro and sterling would both be in circulation, would be particularly troublesome. *The Single European Currency: a practical guide.* (Ref number 5631) £25 from KPMG. Phone 01923-214807.

Firms relaxed over outcome of election

BY JANET BUSH, ECONOMICS EDITOR

A HUGE majority of UK businesses feel that a change of government would either make no difference to their prospects or that they would be more successful if the government changed, according to a Reed Personnel Services survey.

The recruitment specialist surveyed 748 organisations and found that 63 per cent said that a change of government would make no difference. 15 per cent felt that they would be more successful under Labour, with only 18 per cent fearing worsened prospects.

According to the Institute of Management, only 40 per cent of company managers say they back the Tories, down from 62 per cent at the last election.

A Centre for Economics and Business Research report says the UK is set for at least two more years of steady growth, whoever wins the election. It forecasts growth above 3 per cent this year and next and unemployment falling below 1.5 million by the end of 1998.

Aerospace industry seeks more state aid

BY OLIVER AUGUST

THE aerospace industry has challenged the next government to grant an extra £100 million a year for research and development. Directors of the main aerospace companies fear that without state aid Britain will suffer a damaging setback in international competitiveness.

The Society of British Aerospace Companies has launched an initiative called Foresight Action, which sets out specific uses for the government funds. The SBAC said: "This programme is urgently required. Without government support, Foresight Action will not be of a sufficient scale to make a difference to future performance and the decline will continue."

The Ministry of Defence has agreed to an extra £20 million research grant for the aerospace industry for 1997. The Department of Trade and Industry was also approached by the SBAC but so far has made no pledge.

Criticism of Cowie over director

Cowie, the transport group, has been attacked for trying to oust Neil Pykett, its long-serving director, while refusing to give details of its allegations against him.

Cowie is asking shareholders to vote him off its board purely on the ground that other directors find him guilty of "misconduct". It privately says he hoped to become chief executive, but decided to resign when it became clear it would not happen, and is not accused of financial wrong.

Anne Simpson, of Pirc, the ethical investment lobby group, said Cowie had violated shareholder democracy by failing to put Mr Pykett's case.

BT confident

BT said it was confident its merger with MCI will go ahead as planned. The Commons trade committee has recommended that Oftel look into the potential relationship between BT and The News Corporation, after the proposed merger of BT with MCI, which owns a stake in News Corp, parent company of *The Times*. BT said disposing of the stake was only one option raised by the MPs.

Hermes advice

Hermes Investment Management, the pension fund manager, says it will normally support companies against hostile bids, but there should be at least three fully independent non-executive directors.

Bass file due

A Monopolies Commission report on the takeover of Carlsberg-Tetley by Bass is expected at the Department of Trade and Industry today. Bass fears tough conditions will be imposed, but yesterday denied it would scrap the deal.

DIRECT Savings

RATES OF INTEREST

Effective from 24th March 1997

	Gross % p.a.	Net equiv. % p.a.
Direct Premium Account		
Annual Interest		
£1,000 - £9,999	4.80	3.84
£10,000 - £24,999	5.10	4.08
£25,000 +	5.35	4.28
Monthly Income		
£10,000 - £24,999	4.95	3.96
£25,000 +	5.15	4.12
Direct Notice Account		
Annual Interest		
£1,000 - £9,999	5.10	4.08
£10,000 - £24,999	5.45	4.36
£25,000 +	5.65	4.52
Monthly Income		
£10,000 - £24,999	5.25	4.20
£25,000 +	5.45	4.36
Direct 60 Account (No longer available to new investors)		
Annual Interest		
£5,000 - £14,999	5.60	4.48
£15,000 - £29,999	6.05	4.84
£30,000 - £49,999	6.30	5.04
£50,000 +	6.55	5.24
Monthly Income		
£15,000 - £29,999	5.85	4.68
£30,000 - £49,999	6.05	4.84
£50,000 +	6.30	5.04
Direct 90 Account (No longer available to new investors)		
Annual Interest		
£15,000 - £29,999	6.20	4.96
£30,000 - £49,999	6.60	5.28
£50,000 +	6.70	5.36
Monthly Income		
£15,000 - £29,999	6.00	4.80
£30,000 - £49,999	6.40	5.12
£50,000 +	6.50	5.20
Direct Preference TESSA (Limited Issue)		
£3,001 +	6.80*	-
Direct Classic TESSA (Limited Issue)		
£500 +	6.75	-

*Includes bonus of 0.80% gross p.a.

For full details please ring Direct Savings Helpline on

0345 247 247

BRADFORD & BINGLEY BUILDING SOCIETY, Crossflatts, Bingley, West Yorkshire BD16 2UA

Interest rates are variable and correct at time of going to press. Interest will be paid net of the lower rate of income tax (currently 20%) or subject to the required certification, gross. Where the tax deducted exceeds an investor's tax liability (if any), a claim may be made for repayment of tax. Net equivalents are rounded and are for illustrative purposes only. The Society's Timesaver base rate for £1 will be payable on accounts falling below minimum balance requirements for annual interest or monthly income.

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.13	1.97
Austria Sch	19.87	18.37
Belgium Fr	58.29	53.99
Canada $	2.301	2.141
Cyprus CypE	0.837	0.782
Denmark Kr	10.80	10.00
Finland Mkk	8.54	7.89
France Fr	9.45	8.80
Germany Dm	2.84	2.63
Greece Dr	441	415
Hong Kong $	12.98	11.98
Iceland	120	100
Ireland Pt	1.07	0.99
Israel Shk	5.65	5.00
Italy Lira	2841	2641
Japan Yen	210.30	194.30
Malta	0.648	0.593
Netherlds Gld	3.170	2.940
New Zealand $	2.45	2.23
Norway Kr	11.28	10.48
Portugal Esc	281.00	262.50
S Africa Rd	7.64	6.84
Spain Pta	238.50	221.50
Sweden Kr	13.01	12.01
Switzerland Fr	2.43	2.25
Turkey Lira	208000	194000
USA $	1.691	1.561

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to traveller's cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

CHANGE ON WEEK

THE POUND

US dollar
1.6038 (+0.0026)
German mark
2.6997 (-0.0215)
Exchange index
96.7 (-0.5)

Bank of England official close (4pm)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 share
2822.7 (-107.5)
FTSE 100
4254.8 (-169.5)
New York Dow Jones
6804.79 (-130.67)
Tokyo Nikkei Avge
18633.18 (+709.52)

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 38

CUDDY

(a) A supper and night's entertainment due to the lord from his feudal tenant. From the Irish *cuid oidhche*. And (b), a room or cabin in a large ship abaft and under the roundhouse, in which the officers and cabin-passengers take their meals. *Cf.* the Dutch *kajuit*. And (c) a donkey, as in *cuddy ass* in Scotland. Hence, a stupid fellow, an ass.

CULCH

(a) The mass of stones, old shells, and other hard material, of which an oyster-bed is formed. From the Old French *culche* a couch, bed, layer or stratum. "Paved with stones, old shells, and any other hard substances, so as to form a bed for the oysters, which would be choked in soft mud. This material is called culch."

CULLIS

(a) A strong broth, made of meat, fowl, etc., boiled and strained; used especially as a nourishing food for sick persons. Beef-tea is a well-known form. By way of Old French from the Latin *cōlāre* to strain, flow through, glide. Also (b), a gutter, groove or channel, also attributively, as in *cullis roof*.

CULVERTAGE

(c) The position of a culvert, villainage. Forfeiture and degradation to the position of villain or serf. From the Old French and medieval Latin *culvertagium*. "The King of France summoned all his vassals, under the penalty of felony, and the opprobrious name of Culvertage, to attend in this expedition."

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The videos are mostly dramatised, featuring well-known Australian actors in a wide variety of situations.

It is envisaged that a once only fee will be paid for the titles and no further royalties will be due. The General Manager will be in England in the month of April to talk to prospective purchasers.

For more information, please fax **Banksia Productions** on **61 8 8239 2353** or ring Wilson Main on **61 8 8239 2366.**

LATH8356

The Norwich Union Life Insurance Society

Notice is hereby given that an Extraordinary General Meeting of this Society will be held at The London Arena, 36 Limeharbour, London E14 9TH at 11.00am on 18 April 1997 to consider and, if thought fit, to pass the following resolution as a special resolution:

Special Resolution

THAT:

(a) the flotation proposal summarised in the circular to policyholders of the Society dated 20 March 1997 and set out in the documents referred to at the end of section 6 of Part 7 of it (together called the "Documents") be approved and the Directors of the Society be authorised to take all such action as they deem appropriate to carry the flotation proposal into effect and, in particular:

(1) the terms of the schemes under which the long term insurance business of the Society is to be transferred in accordance with the arrangements set out in the Documents be approved, subject to such modifications of or additions to any of them as are made in accordance with their terms; and

(2) the basis set out in the Documents upon which ordinary shares in the capital of Norwich Union plc are to be issued or conditionally allotted be approved, subject to such modifications or additions (if any) to such basis as are made in accordance with the terms of the Documents.

(b) the Articles of Association of the Society be amended:

(1) by the addition, at the end of the definition of a "member" in Article 1(a) of the following words:

"Subject as provided below, the expression "member" shall also include:

(i) any person who was a member of the Society at the opening of business on 18th April 1997 (the "Effective Time") or who, being entitled to be a member of the Effective Time, thereafter agrees to become a member of the Society;

(ii) the personal representative (or, where there is more than one, the personal representative nominated by all of them in writing) of any person mentioned in sub-paragraph (i) above or of any person who was entitled to be a member at the Effective Time and in either case who dies after the Effective Time, being such a personal representative who agrees to become a member of the Society;

notwithstanding that any such person ceases to satisfy the requirements for membership set out in sub-paragraph (1), (2) or (3) above after the Effective Time or, in the case of a personal representative, notwithstanding that he never satisfied any of those requirements

PROVIDED THAT

(a) each such person shall cease to be, or to be entitled to be, a member of the Society upon the scheme ("the Scheme") for the transfer of long term insurance business of the Society filed with the High Court of Justice in England on 5th March 1997 becoming effective and upon the ordinary shares in the capital of Norwich Union plc being admitted to the Official List of the London Stock Exchange; and

(b) if the Scheme shall not have become effective on or prior to 31st December 1997 or such later date as the Society may approve and the High Court of Justice in England may allow, each such person shall thereafter cease to be entitled to be a member of the Society, if he does not then fulfil, or once he does not thereafter fulfil, the requirements for membership set out in sub-paragraph (1), (2) or (3) above; and

(c) these provisions shall not affect the right of the Directors to admit any person to membership pursuant to the provisions of Article 1(b)(3) after the Effective Time."

(2) by the addition of a new Article 87 in the following form:

"87. If the Society shall be wound up, the liquidator shall, with the sanction of an extraordinary resolution of the Society and subject to any other sanction or direction required by law, distribute amongst the members of the Society such of its assets as are available for distribution in such manner as the extraordinary resolution shall prescribe."

(c) subject to the Scheme becoming effective and the ordinary shares of Norwich Union plc being admitted to the Official List of the London Stock Exchange:

(i) the Society be re-registered as a company limited by shares pursuant to section 51 of the Companies Act 1985 with an authorised share capital of 100 shares of £1 each, all of which shall be issued to Norwich Union Life & Pensions Limited on such terms as the Directors of the Society may determine;

(ii) the name of the Society be changed to The Norwich Union Life Insurance Company Limited; and

(iii) the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Society be amended so as to be in the form tabled at the Meeting and initialled by the Chairman for the purposes of identification.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD
Graham Jones, Secretary
8 Surrey Street
Norwich NR1 3NG
24 March 1997

Explanatory Notes

The above resolution will, if passed, sanction the proposals for the flotation of Norwich Union. These proposals involve the transfer, subject to the approval of the High Court, of the existing business (including the policy liabilities) of The Norwich Union Life Insurance Society ("the Society") to companies which, along with the Society, will become wholly-owned subsidiaries of Norwich Union plc, a new holding company to be listed on the London Stock Exchange. Under the proposals, the membership rights of policyholders on 18 April 1997 will be replaced by shares in Norwich Union plc or, in the case of certain overseas residents and pension scheme trustees, the cash equivalent value of those shares. Policyholders who are to receive shares in Norwich Union plc will also be able to subscribe, on preferential terms, for further shares in the public share subscription offer which will be made to raise the capital required to implement the proposals.

Further information relating to the proposals (including the circular referred to in the Special Resolution set out above) and to the meeting has been mailed to members, together with voting forms. All voting forms should be returned in the reply envelope or by post to Norwich Union Scrutineers, PO Box 404, Leeds LS1 1SJ, Great Britain or by hand to Norwich Union Scrutineers, Marston Lane, Crossgates, Leeds LS7 5BAH, Great Britain. Members who require further information (or who do not duly receive the mailing) are invited to telephone 0645 444818 (if phoning from the UK) or ++44 541 501020 (if phoning from outside the UK).

Why Britain cannot afford to ditch Tory revolution



William Waldegrave believes our children will weep if Labour is returned to power and Britain turns away from the future

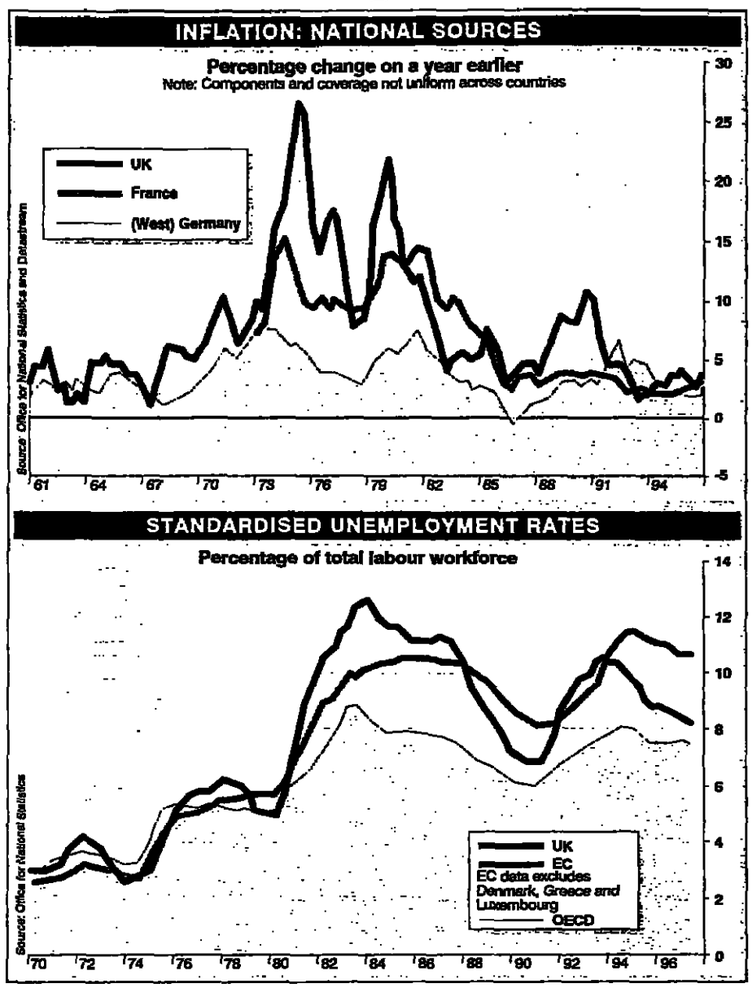
In the mid-1970s, Britain seemed set on an inexorable course towards economic, political and social collapse. Serious people predicted revolution and the collapse of our institutions. Militant unions brought down one Government and held another to ransom. The fashionable question was "Is Britain governable?" — and the fashionable answer was "no".

The mood was encapsulated by Peter Jay, who was then economics editor of *The Times*. In his Wincott Memorial Lecture in December 1975 he predicted that present arrangements would lead inexorably to anarchy followed by a "strongman". Britain was to go the way of Italy in the 1920s and Germany in the 1930s.

Underlying the panic lay some hard and desperate numbers, to which Peter Jay had directed the attention of the nation in a series of articles earlier in the year. In his piece "Tour des cycles" of May 1975 he summarised the economic helterskelter ride to ruin down which Britain was sliding. In every downturn of the economy, our unemployment was getting worse than in the previous trough. In every recovery, our inflation peaked higher — and thereby led on to each unemployment trough being deeper than the last. In a worsening see-saw, alternately the nation's savings and the nation's jobs were being progressively destroyed.

And then came 1979 and the Conservatives. To be perfectly fair, Peter Jay and perhaps, through his influence, his then father-in-law, the Prime Minister, James Callaghan, began themselves to contribute to the revolution of ideas that led to the Conservative victory. The then economics editor of *The Times* not only analysed the causes of the crisis, but contributed to the shift of economic and political paradigm that solved it.

Because solve it the Conservatives did. The first chart is irrefutable evidence of that historic fact — which ensures a place in history for Lady Thatcher, Lord Howe and Lord Lawson, but no less for John Major, Chris Patten and Ken Clarke. As confirmed by the European-wide figures out earlier this month, Britain has rejoined the low inflation pack that we left in the 1960s — having had, over the previous 150 years, a record as good as any.



On unemployment (see chart two), our achievement has been even more astonishing, because we have not only reversed our upward trend, but we have done so at a time when France and Germany have failed to do the same in the face of the same problem. To put it another way, Britain has dealt with its long-term inflation problem at the same time as making a radical improvement in the long-term unemployment trend. We have, in economist's jargon, lowered our non-accelerating inflation rate of unemployment (Nairu), at a time when others have failed to do so. This is what the Thatcher-Major Governments have done. Peter Jay did not exaggerate the impending collapse when he wrote in 1975. The Conservatives did save our country. It did hurt, but it has worked. It was not done just by getting macroeconomic policy right. Indeed, I believe that it was overconfidence in the efficacy of rival macroeconomic panaceas that bedevilled Britain in the 1960s and 1970s. It was done by changing the real economy. Here are just three more fundamental statistics that show what happened in Britain in the 1990s.

Tour des cycles . . .

The new remodelled format of *Economic Trends*, the Government Statistical Service's monthly compendium of economic data and articles, is thoroughly welcome and useful another landmark in the benign revolution in government statistics that has marked the creative reign of Sir Claus Moser as ... The rise in consumer prices, measured from the bank of one year to the peak of the next, (since June, 1952) has been accelerating. (from 13 per cent over 4½ years; to 17 per cent over 4½ years; to 26 per cent over 4½ years, and to 36 per cent over 4½ years). The peak "annual" worst level

From *The Times* of May 8, 1975

First, we became one of the only countries in the industrialised world to achieve an *improvement* in the productivity of our capital. This was partly as a result of privatisation. When politicians, civil servants, nationalised industry bosses and union leaders made investment decisions, we got the AGR, the SGHWR, the tilting train, Concorde and the system X telephone exchange. It would have been quicker to have made a larger pile of £50 notes and burnt them.

Now we have more modesty in Whitehall: and investment decisions in privatised industry aimed at securing a return for the shareholders by meeting customer needs.

Secondly, in industry more widely, the Thatcher-Major Governments returned authority to management with the result that the country with one of the worst strike records in the 1960s and 1970s now has one of the best. The result of these and other fundamental supply side reforms (for example, a tax system designed to produce incentives, abolition of exchange controls, reform of Government bureaucracy, deregulation in telecommunications and financial services), taken together with the stabilisation of the economy — was that Britain's relative decline stopped.

Over the last international cycle (that of 1982-93), only Japan among G7 countries outpaced the UK in terms of GDP per capita growth: we have grown faster than both France and Germany in each of the last four years, and we are set to beat them again, this year and next.

If we keep this progress going, if we do not let the trend reverse again, we will soon close the gap that opened after the Second World War. This is the future that must be protected. Of course, there have been mistakes. Of course, we have sometimes been blown off course. But the change of direction is clear.

We have, for once, led the way. Germany, in particular, will, I am sure, soon rediscover the liberal economic roots of her postwar miracle — as the US has already done — and free herself from the shackles that are at present holding her back. A good thing that will be for all of us. But for once Britain is ahead of the game. Partly because we got things even more wrong in the 1960s and 1970s than most, we were compelled to be the first to find our way back to sanity. But others will follow — indeed are following — though at present, it has to be said too many in Europe are still leading their people into the killing ground of ever-higher unemployment.

So, faced with all this, what does Labour do? With its unparalleled skill in picking up the wrong ideas at the wrong time (pacifist CND members when the USSR was really dangerous in 1983 — belligerent nuclear warriors now that the Soviet Union has collapsed; great defenders of trade union barons when they held the country to ransom in the 1970s — jockeying to stand on the corpse now that the Conservatives have slain that dragon). Labour now wants to take us back into Social Democracy, circa 1980, in, say, Sweden. Social chapter, politicised pay bargaining, regional investment banks, special taxes on profitable industries, stakeholding pensions — the whole lot.

If Britain loses her nerve and goes back to all that, it will be hard to know whether to laugh or weep. But succeeding generations would know: they would know that Britain had turned away from the future; they would think we had lost our nerve just when the prize was within our grasp. Our children would see our grand refusal as tragic. Preventing that tragedy is the Conservatives' job in this general election.

☐ *William Waldegrave, MP, is Chief Secretary to the Treasury*

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Styles to wear Ball's boots

DAVID STYLES will be playing in second-hand boots during tonight's football match in aid of the Romanian Orphanage Trust. The executive director at Goldman Sachs and captain of "The Street" — a team made up of City bond dealers — will be wearing a pair of boots that once belonged to Alan Ball, a member of England's 1966 World Cup-winning team and a former Everton midfielder. As a good luck gesture for the game against "Clients", a team of international money and pension managers, a fellow Everton supporter sent Styles the unusual white boots originally worn by Ball. "I used to have a similar pair but, due to peer pressure, hardly wore them," Styles admits. "Unfortunately, Ball's pair are a size too small — they might cramp my style."

MCVITIE'S is cashing in on the National Lottery. On the basis that people splash out on a packet of crackers every eight weeks, and play the National Lottery at least once a week, the biscuit giant is launching an on-pack promotion to create the UK's first "crackers millionaire".

Señor squad

TONY HALES, chief executive of Allied Domecq, is off to Spain, the beverage company's most important European market — but not to boost company sales. In tow will be 16 soccer-crazy youngsters on tour to Torremolinos and Malaga to do battle with five local teams. For the past couple of years, Hales, a lifelong Aston Villa supporter, has been coaching Armscote Lyons FC, made up of budding Dwight Yorkes from south Warwickshire, including his three sons. David, 14, is team captain; Michael and Robert, his 12-year-old twins, play in defence. Meanwhile, Mrs Hales is off to Tenerife, accompanied by their 18-year-old daughter.



Hales: Lyons coach

Grounded

MONEY men from Warburgs were left on the runway after a trip to America went awry. It was meant to be a jamboree to *Florida, dressed up as a* chance for the derivatives department to bond. But as it turned out, the flight was overbooked, and two thirds of the party were left waiting at the airport. Fed up with hanging around for the next flight, and determined not to be rerouted via Nova Scotia, an irate group turned tail. Not such good *news for Virgin*, which was only recently hailed the merchant bank's preferred airline.

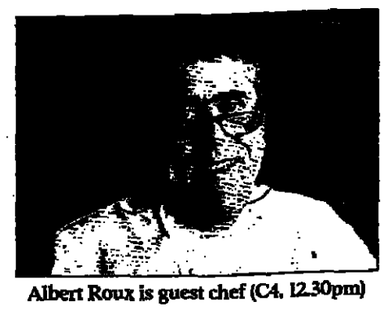
Cup of woe

LET'S hope Global Group's prelims, announced today, bring a smile to the chairman's face. Ken Manley, a devotee of the turf, took a rare day off recently to watch the Cheltenham Gold Cup. Runners and riders aside, it gave him a *chance to see the food group's* mobile catering karts in action. They did a record trade, but Manley was left out of pocket. "I've got a leg in Wisley Wonder which I backed heavily at 66-1. Unfortunately the horse went down," Manley moans.

MORAG PRESTON

TELEVISION CHOICE

Table talk and fine food



Albert Roux is guest chef (C4, 12.30pm)

Light Lunch
Channel 4, 12.30pm

Daytime television tends to have a less than flattering image, which is why each new daytime show tries to convince us that it is different. *Light Lunch* goes out live five days a week. The producer, Henrietta Conrad, calls it "groundbreaking". But she would hardly admit that it was not. Presented by Mel Giedroyc and Sue Perkins, a stand-up comedy act, it is a sort of chat show round the lunch table. Each day a different chef (today it is Albert Roux and his son Michel, but it could be a school dinner lady) prepares a meal for four to six guests. The provisional list of diners includes David Hasselhoff, Paula Yates, Ruby Wax and Ben Elton, but there will be non-celebrities as well. The chat takes place before a studio audience, with music from a resident band, and viewers will be able to participate by fax, phone or e-mail.

The Sci Files: Cyber War
BBC2, 7.30pm

Vanessa Collingridge's report about computer hacking may not say anything very new, but it certainly is frightening. The argument is simple. *Computer technology has shrunk the planet*, enabling the world to be connected up in a global Web. But putting all this information into cyberspace means that it is vulnerable to attack. *According to one pundit, ten hackers* could bring the American economy to a standstill. The military experience is not reassuring. During the Gulf War hundreds of American files were stolen by Dutch hackers and reportedly offered for sale to Saddam Hussein. In 1995 alone the Pentagon computers were hacked into a quarter of a million times. Nobody mentions the obvious answer, which is to stop storing sensitive information on computers. But that would be like giving up the motor car and going back to the stagecoach.

Cutting Edge: The Dinner Party
Channel 4, 9.00pm

This is a programme that has received so much advance publicity that you may feel you have seen it already. So let us start with the facts. Paul Watson, who made the acerbic *Sylvania Waters*, decided, with the general election approaching, to get away from political soundbites and test grassroots opinion among ordinary voters. His idea was to film a dinner party and he advertised in the press for volunteers. His cameras ended up at a meal in East Anglia, where most of the diners had voted Conservative last time. What has hit the headlines is the extremity of some of their views, particularly on blacks, homosexuals and the poor. Watson has been accused of making propaganda for the Labour Party. Some of the dinner guests say their remarks have been taken out of context. Here at last is the programme. Judge for yourself.

For the Love Of . . .
Channel 4, Midnight

For the last of his late-night discussions Jon Ronson turns to cryptozoology. *Unlike* real zoology it deals with animals that belong to the realms of myth or magic. One rationale of the cryptozoologist is that creatures once dismissed as travellers' tales *have turned out to be real. The mountain gorilla* is one and the giant squid another. But the absence of scientific proof is no deterrent to belief. Two of tonight's contributors are convinced of the existence of the *owl*-man, a feathered humanoid which has frequently been spotted in a small area of Cornwall. Nobody will bet against the existence of the yeti or the chance of a puma roaming the New Forest. You do not have to agree to enjoy the discussion, while wondering why the show is being screened so late.

Peter Waymark

RADIO CHOICE

Voices of Sport
Radio 5 Live, 7.35pm

Sports commentators on radio and television have enjoyed such a heightened profile over the past few years that football broadcasting has joined cricket in encouraging some of the biggest names in sport to take up media careers: Gary Lineker, Alan Hansen, David Gower and Geoffrey Boycott to name just a few. But Peter Jones was nurtured by the BBC using older precepts and he was one of the *more self-effacing of commentators*. Yet in 1990 Jones, sadly, became bigger news than the event he was covering when he suffered a fatal stroke during the Boat Race. This programme recalls that awful day and the varied career of the former schoolteacher who became one of the best all-round commentators of his generation.

Up All Night
Radio 5 Live, 2.00am

The annual dishing out of Hollywood Oscars has become an event so large in itself that it cannot be long before the coverage by one network or another wins a broadcasting award. The eight-hour time difference between *London and Los Angeles meant* that the BBC used to cover the Oscars in news programmes plus a highlights package the next day. Now both radio and television invite us to stay *up all night and hear the awards live*. Richard Dallyn, the presenter, is joined by Nelson Aspen, who is described as a "celebrity analyst". I am not sure whether this means that he is a psychiatrist or possibly a showbusiness reporter but in Hollywood these two jobs can often be interchangeable.

Peter Barnard

RADIO 1

7.00am Mark Radcliffe 9.00 David Pearce 12.00 Jo Whiley 2.00pm Nicky Campbell 4.00 Kevin Greening 6.15 Newsbeat 6.30 Evening Session 8.30 Andy Kershaw 10.30 Mary Ann Hobbs 1.00am Claire Sturgess 4.00 Clive Warren

RADIO 2

6.00am Nick Barraclough 7.30 Wake Up to Wogan 9.30 Alex Lester 11.30 Jimmy Young 1.30pm Debbie Thrower 3.00 Ed Stewart 5.05 John Dunn 7.00 Steve Wright at the Movies 7.30 Malcolm Laycock 8.30 Big Band Special 9.00 Humphrey Lyttelton 10.00 Vaudeville Red-Hot and Blue 10.30 The Jamesons 12.05am Steve Madden 3.00 Charles Nove

RADIO 5 LIVE

5.00am Morning Reports 6.00 The Breakfast Programme 9.00 The Magazine 12.00 Midday with Mair 2.00 Ruscoe on Five 4.00 Nationwide 7.00 News Extra 7.35 Voices of Sport. See Choice 8.00 *The Monday Match: Arsenal v Liverpool* 10.00 News Talk 11.00 Night Extra 12.00 After Hours 2.00am Up All Night. See Choice

WORLD SERVICE

All times in GMT. News on the hour. 5.30am Europe Today 6.30 Europe Today 7.15 Red Dwarf (8/12) 7.30 Vintage Chart Show 8.10 Words of Faith 8.15 Via Dolorosa 9.05 Business 9.15 Anything Goes 9.45 Sport 10.30 BBC English 10.45 Red Dwarf (8/12) 11.30 Omnibus 12.05pm Business 12.15 Britain Today 12.30 Andy Kershaw 2.05 Outlook 2.30 John Peel 3.05 Sport 3.15 Learning World 3.30 Omnibus 4.15 World Today 4.30 BBC English 4.45 Britain Today 5.30 Business 5.45 Sport 6.30 Just a Minute 7.01 Outlook 7.25 Words of Faith 7.30 Multitrack 9.05 Business 9.15 Britain Today 9.30 Moments That Changed Our World 9.45 First on the Scene 10.30 World Today 10.45 Sport 11.10 Take Five 11.15 Record News 11.30 Multitrack 12.30am Global Concerns 12.45 Britain Today 1.30 Outlook 1.55 Words of Faith 2.30 Omnibus 3.15 Sport 3.30 Meridian 4.30 Europe Today

CLASSIC FM

4.00am Mark Griffiths 6.00 Mike Read 9.00 Henry Kelly 12.00 Margaret Howard 2.00pm Concerto 3.00 Jamie Crick 7.00 *Classic Newsnight* 7.30 *Sonata* 8.00 Evening Concert. Includes Donizetti, Rossini and Mozart 10.00 Michael Mappin 1.00am Mel Cooper

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air, with Penny Gore. Includes Reicha (Clarinet Quintet in B flat); Dowland (The Frog Galliard: Come Away: La Mia Barbara)
9.00 **Morning Collection**, with Peter Hobday. Includes Beethoven (Overture: Coriolan); Prokofiev (Violin Concerto No 1); Haydn (Symphony No 72 in D)
10.00 **Musical Encounters**, with Edward Blakeman. Includes Jacob van Eyck (Daphne); Shostakovich (Piano Concerto No 1); Strauss (Four Symphonic Interludes, Intermezzo)
12.00 **Composer of the Week: Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart**, with Richard Wigmore
1.00pm **News; BBC Lunchtime Concert.** *Live from* St John's, Smith Square, London. Guildhall String Ensemble perform Dvořák, orch Suk (Cypresses); Bartok (Two Romanian Folk Dances)
2.00 **From the Proms** (r)
3.45 **Voices (Schubertiad).** Iain Burnside presents a programme of Schubert lieder to poems by Goethe and Mayrhofer, given as part of a recital at the 1996 Feldkirche Schubertiade by the baritone Matthias Goerne and the pianist Graham Johnson
4.30 **The Baritone Saxophone** (4/5) (r)
5.00 **Music Machine.** Caroline Swinburne explores the music of Zambia and Zimbabwe
5.15 **In Tune**, with Andrew Green. Includes Vaughan Williams (Overture: The Wasps); Bach (Chaconne, Partita No 2 in D minor, BWV1004)
7.30 **EBU Early Music Series.** From the de Singel Concert Hall, Antwerp. Bach (Mass in B minor, BMV232, part 1) 8.25 Bach the Recycler. George Pratt illustrates Bach's redevelopment of his existing compositions in the B minor Mass and plays familiar passages as they were originally heard 8.45 Concert, part 2. Bach (Mass in B *minor, BWV232, part 2)*
9.55 **Christopher Logue's True Story.** A five-part radio autobiography
10.15 **Membra Jesu Nostri**, by Dietrich Buxtehude. Tonight's excerpt is *Ad manus* and Alan Howard reads William Alabaster's *Upon the Ensignes of Christe's Crucifying* (3/7)
11.15 **Mixing It**, with Mark Russell and Robert Sandall
12.00 **Composer of the Week: Henry Cowell**
12.30am **Jazz Notes**, with Digby Fairweather
1.00 **Through the Night**, with Donald Macleod

RADIO 4

5.55am **Shipping (LW)** 6.00 News Briefing 6.10 Farming Today 6.25 Prayer for the Day 6.30 Today 8.45 The Easter Egg Hunt, by Michelle Roberts (r) 8.58 Weather
9.00 **News 9.05 Start the Week,** *with Times columnist* Melvyn Bragg and guests
10.00 **News; The Lipman Test (FM).** Maureen Lipman meets DIY enthusiasts (5/6)
10.00 **Daily Service (LW)** 10.15 **On This Day (LW)**
10.30 **Woman's Hour**, with Jenni Murray
11.30 **Money Box Live: 0171-580 4444**
12.00 **News; You and Yours (FM)**
12.25pm **Counterpoint** 12.55 Weather
1.00 **The World at One**, with Nick Clarke
1.40 **The Archers (FM)** (r) 1.55 Shipping
2.00 **News; Waterland**, by Graham Swift. With Roy Marsden and Tom Bevan (3/3)
3.00 **The Afternoon Shift.** The mathematician Keith Devlin has new theories on how the mind works
4.00 **News 4.05 Kaleidoscope.** Lynne Walker talks to the violinist Tasmin Little as she records the Bruch Violin Concerto
4.45 **Short Story: The Visit,** by Maureen Osborne
5.00 **PM** 5.50 Shipping Forecast 5.55 Weather
6.00 **Six O'Clock News**
6.30 **The News Quiz**, with Simon Hoggart (r)
7.00 **News** 7.05 **The Archers**
7.20 **The Food Programme**, *with Derek Cooper (r)*
7.45 **The Monday Play: Oedipus the King,** by Sophocles. Directed for radio by Peter Hall with the cast of the Royal National Theatre production. Translated and adapted by Ranjit Bolt
9.15 **Whippets and Marsupials,** Two house-swappers from County Durham and Australia write about their new lives (3/4) (r)
9.30 **Kaleidoscope** (r) 9.59 Weather
10.00 **The World Tonight**, with Isabel Hilton
10.45 **Book at Bedtime: Reading in the Dark,** by Seamus Deane. Read by Stephen Rea (1/8)
11.00 **The Living World (FM)** (3/5) (r)
11.30 **Pendhiral (FM)** (4/4) (r)
11.30 **Racing Pigs and Giant Marrows (LW)**
12.00 **News** incl 12.27am approx Weather
12.30am **Late Book: The Wasp Factory,** by Iain Banks. Read by Joseph McFadden (1/10)
12.48 **Shipping Forecast** 1.00 **As World Service**

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1. FM 97.6-99.8. **RADIO 2.** FM 88.0-90.2. **RADIO 3.** FM 90.2-92.4. **RADIO 4.** FM 92.4-94.6; LW 198; MW 720. **RADIO 5 LIVE.** MW 693, 909. **WORLD SERVICE.** MW 648; LW 198 (12.45-5.55am). **CLASSIC FM.** FM 100-102. **VIRGIN RADIO.** FM 105.8; MW 1197, 1215. **TALK RADIO.** MW 1053, 1089.
Television and radio listings compiled by Peter Dear, Ian Hughes, Rosemary Smith, Susan Thomson, Jane Gregory and John McNamara.

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هكذا من الأصل

Having had the cake, I'd like to eat it again

REVIEW



Matthew Bond

All week, the plan had been the same. To start the review with *Hamish MacBeth*, one of my great favourites of the moment. But the plan will have to wait... for **Have Your Cake and Eat It** (BBC1, Saturday and Sunday). It was quite, quite brilliant.

Whether Michael Jackson, the Controller of BBC1, was right to cram four hours of such high quality drama into only two weekends (almost matching the rate at which ITV is getting through its detectives) I do not know. But I do know that next weekend won't be the same without my double dose of Sinead Cusack.

I also know that any man thinking of livening up spring with an extramarital fling will be having very serious second thoughts in the wake of Rob Heyland's beautifully crafted screenplay. If the right hook, delivered on the stoke of midnight on New Year's Eve, didn't persuade them, last night's *coup de grâce*, hot coffee poured directly into the errant lap, will.

Small credit for the success of *Have Your Cake* must go to Paul Abbott, whose not altogether dissimilar serial, *Reckless*, recently reminded us what good television marital infidelity can produce. But however good *Reckless* was by the end, *Have Your Cake* started better and never looked back. Enormous credit for that must go to Paul Seed, the director, who secured terrific performances from every member of his cast and hit barely a *duff note throughout*.

Having eulogised quite so rapturously, however, it must be said, after Saturday's superlative episode, last night's conclusion did place something of a strain on its credibility as Heyland embarked energetically — and imaginatively — in pursuit of the moral message that his truncated title implied. "Helping deliver your husband's mistress's baby?" observed Nat (*James Bolam*). "That'll be something to tell the grandchildren." Wife and mistress brought together by birthing ritual? I didn't buy it for a minute, but by then the whole *thing had become so enjoyable* that it didn't matter.

Sinead Cusack, as Charlotte, was outstanding throughout, but it has to be said it was a rare gem of a part, the wronged wife who, when confronted with her husband's infidelity, didn't fall apart but first got empowered and then — finally and fabulously — got even. But she couldn't have done it without wonderful help from Miles Anderson as the ghastly Sam. Holly Aird as *the far from fatale* other woman, Bolam as her adviser-turned-admirer... indeed just about anybody who uttered a single word of Heyland's hard-working dialogue. Next weekend will simply not be the same.

Of course, we'll still have **Hamish MacBeth** (BBC1) and perhaps by next weekend he'll be back in Lochdubh, rather than gallivanting around the Western Isles solving decades-old mysteries. Solving mysteries is not really what *Hamish MacBeth* is about.

It was, however, last night, with Constable MacBeth (the excellent Robert Carlyle) on holiday on the island of Laggan-Laggan and walking into a plot so complicated that I freely admit I'm not absolutely sure what happened in the end. I know these island communities are close-knit, but this one was positively crocheted.

Although the episode did have its lighter moments (staying in a household split by the Roman Catholic/Protestant divide, *MacBeth prudently opted to be Jewish*) and had Caroline Paterson escaping from Albert Square to play the pretty girl without whom no *Hamish MacBeth* is without, there was something strangely "not right" about it. It was like a story that Daniel Boyle, the writer, had been hanging on to for some time, only to be forced — for whatever reason — into pouring it into a *Hamish MacBeth* mould for which it was never intended, nor indeed, suited. Lovely performances from a cast that included Alan MacNaughton, Tom Watson and Michael Byrne, but baffling nonetheless. As the old roadsign almost says: Haste Ye Back, Hamish... to Lochdubh.

There was another curiosity on ITV, where DCI Barnaby, the latest addition to ITV's apparently endless portfolio of literary detectives, drove straight into Miss Marple land, *the preposterously idyllic village of* Badger's Drift, where — to nobody's great surprise — everybody had a secret and nothing was quite as it seemed. Unless, of course, you were *up on the plot of Tis Pity She's A Whore*, in which case you'd probably got **Midsomer Murders** cracked after 15 minutes.

The rest of us took a while longer. "Why do I get the feeling that everyone is lying to me?" asked Barnaby (John Nettles, who certainly had more fun playing Bergerac). "Because they always do," said his wife, taking time off from Delia Smith recipes to remind him of the very foundation stone of detective fiction. Sunday nights — indeed most nights — on ITV would be awfully short if everybody told the truth.

Nettles did a good job of establishing Barnaby as a credible character, but was hindered by a storyline where murders are still solved by the knowledge that the Test match had been rained off on Wednesday (nobody mentioned the fact that Test matches are not played on Wednesdays) or that it was half-day closing in Cawston, and by two very theatrical performances from Elizabeth Spriggs and Richard Cant as the village's far from amateur blackmailers. As for Barnaby's inevitable side-kick, Sergeant Troy, he turned out to be a red herring, which in a story dependent on literary knowledge for its final twist... seemed like cheating.

BBC1

6.00am Business Breakfast (97095)
7.00 BBC Breakfast News (T) (92453)
9.00 Breakfast News Extra (T) (5881434)
9.20 Style Challenge (4138811)
9.45 Kilroy (4818076)
10.30 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (11415)
11.00 News (T) and weather (6834873)
11.05 The Really Useful Show (7446502)
11.35 Change That (8021434)
12.00 News (T) and weather (7988502)
12.05pm The Alphabet Game (5929705)
12.30 Going for a Song Antiques game, hosted by Michael Parkinson (6299873)
12.55 The Weather Show (79360637)
1.00 News (T) and weather (95540)
1.30 Regional News (83030182)
1.40 Neighbours (11334989)
2.05 To Dance with the White Dog (1993) FILM with Hume Cronyn and Jessica Tandy. An *elderly man is grief-stricken by the death* of his beloved bride after 57 years of marriage, but finds comfort in the company of a stray dog. Directed by Glenn Jordan (7615347)
3.30 Playdays (5896618) **3.50** Pingu (6251347) **3.55** Bodger and Badger (6569106) **4.10** Gadget Boy (1895908) **4.35** Record Breakers Gold. Last in series (5833095) **5.00** Newsround (T) (3100298) **5.10** Blue Peter (T) (5666499)
5.35 Neighbours (r) (T) (685569)
6.00 News (T) and weather (347)
6.30 Newsroom South East (927)
7.00 This Is Your Life (9618)
7.30 Here and Now Steve Annett reports on controversial plans for the emergency services. Plus: Denise Mahoney meets children who suffer from a rare condition in which they feel no pain (811)
8.00 EastEnders Ricky gets caught in the middle of the mystery surrounding Sarah's disappearance (T) (8366)
8.30 Goodnight Sweetheart Complications arise when Phoebe's mother-in-law turns up at the Royal Oak (T) (7873)
9.00 News (T) and weather (9453)
9.30 Panorama: Abortion — Behind Closed Doors Sarah Barclay examines the abortion issue (T) (590273)
10.10 The Untouchables (1987) Kevin Costner FILM stars as Eliot Ness, *the crusading federal* agent leading the battle against police corruption and underworld crime in 1920s Chicago. With Sean Connery, Robert De Niro and Andy Garcia. Directed by Brian De Palma (611665) **WALES: 10.10** The Slate (762279) **10.40** A Parent's Guide (392057) **10.55** FILM: The Untouchables (18660231) **12.50** Under the Influence (3001380) **1.05** FILM: Crossplot (240835) **2.40** News
12.05am Under the Influence Sophie Aldred continues to examine the influence of *Christianity in Britain* (7418835)
12.20 Crossplot (1969) with Roger Moore and FILM Martha Hyer. A mild-mannered advertising executive unwittingly gets caught up in an espionage ring after being handed an uncompleted crossword puzzle by a dying man. Directed by Alvin Rakoff (344564)
1.55 Weather (3305767)

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BBC2

6.00am Open University: From Child to Pupil (7817434) **6.25** How We Study Children (T) (7836569) **6.50** An English Accent (9668298) **7.15** News (T) (7730989) **7.30** Secret Life of Toys (3251892) **7.45** Wacky Races (r) (8589786) **8.10** Blue Peter (r) (T) (5371366) **8.35** Bem (5557989) **9.00** Activ-8 (r) (T) (13873) **9.30** Sweet Valley High (r) (5070144) **9.55** Oakie Doke (r) (7698927) **10.10** Playdays (9034182) **10.30** Babar (r) (19057)
11.00 Lassie: The Voyager (1966) with Robert FILM Ray and MacDonald Carey. Lassie braves a hurricane to give chase to her master. Directed by Dick Moder and Jack B. Hively (43415)
12.30pm Working Lunch (60279) **1.00** Secret Life of Toys (r) (59985095) **1.15** My Village (81276298)
1.20 Lady in the Lake (1946, b/w) with Robert FILM Montgomery and Audrey Totter. A missing person case full of intrigue and deception for Philip Marlowe. Directed by Robert Montgomery (32956298)
3.00 News, Regional News (T) and weather (2454665) **3.05** The Natural World (r) (4557908) **3.55** News (T) (6241960) **4.00** Today's the Day (540) **4.30** Ready, Steady, Cook (724) **5.00** Esther (1304) **5.30** Going, Going, Gone (796)
6.00 The Simpsons (882326)
6.25 Space Precinct (r) (T) (665502)
7.10 Electric Circus features Wet Wet Wet (837298)
7.30 The Sci Files Military and CHOICE economic systems could be attacked by high-tech enemies via the Internet (453)
8.00 Motor Month The first of a new series includes footage of the Vauxhall Rally of *Wales* (T) (6908)
8.30 Ray Mears's World of Survival: Namibia While in the Kalahari bush, Mears learns how to avoid lions while tracking antelopes and how to make a poison arrow from fence wire (T) (5415)



Bonnie Bedelia as Nancy (9.00pm)

9.00 The Outer Limits: Worlds Apart Sci-fi anthology series. Nancy receives an alarming message from outer space. With Bonnie Bedelia (T) (802908)
9.45 This Life Warren's ex-lover causes a disturbance at a dinner party. Anna and Miles clash when they are assigned to the same case (T) (821569)
10.28 Video Nation Shorts (719347)
10.30 Newsnight (T) (916521)
11.15 Open to Abuse (347366)
11.45 Close Up (r) (249786)
12.00 The Phil Silvers Show (b/w) (35019)
12.30am Learning Zone: Open University: The Lyonnais (21564) **1.30** Modern Art (25293)
2.00 The Oscars live from Los Angeles. Ends at **6.00** (3738899)

ITV

6.00am GMTV (6285250)
9.25 Chain Letters (T) (4113502)
9.55 Regional News (T) (5912989)
10.00 The Time, the Place (T) (41231)
10.30 This Morning (41690958)
12.20pm Regional News (T) (7984786)
12.30 News (T) and weather (6224569)
12.55 High Road (T) (6292960) **1.25** Home and Away (T) (47134076) **1.50** Murder, She Wrote (r) (7608182) **2.40** Savannah (r) (1833960)
3.20 News (T) (8959255)
3.25 Regional News (T) (9309796)
3.30 Tots TV (r) (7119845) **3.40** Rainbow Days (9358618) **3.50** Goofy (3519881) **4.05** Scooby's Amazing Adventures (2169618) **4.20** Snap (T) (1879960) **4.45** Art Attack (T) (5824347)
5.10 Sorted Focusing on bullying (5062163)
5.40 News (T) and weather (828347)
6.00 Home and Away (r) (T) (802182)
6.25 HTV Weather (158908)
6.30 HTV News (T) (845)
7.00 Wish You Were Here? Judith Chalmers bowls down Route 66 in Arizona. Plus: Martin Roberts embarks on a grand tour of the Greek Islands and John Carter finds out what makes holidaymakers return to St Ives year after year (T) (4786)
7.30 Coronation Street Alan demonstrates that his love for Fiona is as strong as ever (T) (279)
8.00 World in Action An investigation into the off-road rage caused by clamping (T) (3434)



Oliver Ford Davies stars (8.30pm)

8.30 Kavanagh QC Kavanagh defends a British Ambassador's daughter accused of murdering an Australian journalist (T) (64076)
10.00 News (T) and weather (21892)
10.30 Regional News (T) (307989)
10.40 Joseph Emidy: The Lost Composer Charting the life of the 19th-century black composer, featuring a performance by jazz musician Andy Shepherd (T) (481250)
11.40 Terrors of the Deep Exploring the real and mythological predators of the oceans and the sea's destructive power (608250)
12.35am Football Extra (1900354)
1.20 Mainly Men John Leslie returns with a new series of the magazine for men with women in mind (4337895)
1.50 Planet Rock Profiles The former *Ultravox* frontman Midge Ure (8205545)
2.20 Club Nation (r) (4624187)
3.20 God's Gift (r) (2104309)
4.15 Sound Bites (19087458)
4.30 World in Action (r) (T) (94835)
5.00 Coronation Street (r) (T) (70767)
5.30 News (23274)

CENTRAL

As HTV West except:
12.55pm-1.25 A Country Practice (6292960)
1.50 Blue Heelers (7608182)
2.40 World of Wonder (2250415)
2.50-3.20 High Road (5655908)
5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (5062163)
6.25-7.00 Central News (953279)
10.40 Film: The Plot to Kill Hitler (37791368)
12.25am The Movie Show Special: The Specialist (5233944)
12.50 Profile (3003748)
1.05 Football League Extra (8775380)
1.50 Stand and Deliver (3255748)
2.45 Film: The People Across the Lake (189106)
4.35 Central Jobfinder '97 (1559390)
5.20 Asian Eye (8894835)

WESTCOUNTRY

As HTV West except:
12.55-1.25 Gardener's Diary (6292960)
1.50-3.20 Film: Danielle Steel's Palomino (9177786)
5.10-5.40 Home and Away (5062163)
6.00-7.00 Westcountry Live (65724)
10.30 Westcountry News (321569)
10.45 Film: In the Line of Duty — The Twilight Murders (1991). An FBI drama starring Rod Steiger, Michael Gross and Christopher Rich. Directed by Dick Lowry (18675163)

MERIDIAN

As HTV West except:
12.55-1.25 A Country Practice (6292960)
1.50 Down by the River (11332521)
2.20-3.20 Blue Heelers (8472989)
5.10-5.40 Home and Away (5062163)
6.00 Meridian Tonight (415)
6.30-7.00 Country Ways (845)
10.40 The Pier (828521)
11.05 The Listings (577811)
11.10 Alfred Hitchcock Presents (755502)
11.40 Prisoner: Cell Block H (608250)
5.00am Freescreen (70767)

ANGLIA

As HTV West except:
12.55-1.25 A Country Practice (6292960)
1.50 Blue Heelers (8923705)
2.50-3.20 Jungle on Your Doorstep (5655908)
5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (5062163)
6.25-7.00 Anglia News (953279)
10.30 Anglia News and Weather (321569)
10.45 Film: Fistful of Dollars (18675163)

S4C

Starts: 6.00am Sesame Street (80705) **7.00 The Big Breakfast** (85163) **9.00 Bewitched** (48569) ***9.30 Film: The Blue Peter*** (74925540) **11.10 The Legend of White Fang** (7461811) ***11.40 Pink Panther*** (8011057) **12.05pm Right to Reply** (5912415) **12.30 Elen** (55347) **1.00 Siot Meithrin** (88250) ***1.30 Film: Yellow Sky*** (55255144) **3.20 Fresh Pop** (2759417) **3.30 Collectors' Lot** (873) **4.00 Fifteen-to-One** (908) **4.30 The Lost Gardens of Heligan** (892) **5.00 5 Pump** (5892) **5.30 Countdown** (144) **6.00 Newyddion** (894298) **6.05 Heno** (880960) **6.35 Jacpot** (165298) **7.00 Pobol y Cwm** (549521) **7.25 Taro Naw** (385778) **8.00 Ma' Ifan 'Ma** (1076) **8.30 Newyddion** (3811) **9.00 I Dot** (6637) **10.00 Sgorio** (9724) **11.00 NBA Raw** (38397) **12.00-1.40am Film: Little Criminals** (175361)

CHANNEL 4

6.00am Sesame Street (80705) **7.00** The Big Breakfast (85163) **9.00** Bewitched (r) (T) (48569)
9.30 The Blue Peter (1955) with Kieron FILM Moore, Greta Gynt and Sarah Lawson. *Comedy-drama about a brainwashed* Korean War veteran. Directed by Wolf Rilla (91271724)
11.15 The Legend of White Fang (r) (6478908)
12.00 Right to Reply (r) (T) (28705)
12.30 CHOICE Light Lunch New series with *Albert Roux and his son* Michel as guests (7816540)
1.35pm Book (28923960)
1.55 Cattle Empire (1958) with Joel McCrea, FILM Gloria Talbot and Don Haggerty. A trail boss, having just got out of jail, reverts to his bad ways. Directed by Charles Marquis Warren (T) (89614569)
3.30 Collectors' Lot (T) (873) **4.00** Fifteen-To-One (r) (908) **4.30** Countdown (T) (892) **5.00** The Montel Williams Show (T) (5892) **5.30** The Real Holiday Show (r) (T) (144)
6.00 The Cosby Show (r) (T) (647)
6.30 Hollyoaks Lucy tries to cheer up Baz and Jambo tries to persuade Mr Gardner to give him another chance (T) (637)
7.00 Channel 4 News (T) (172637)
7.55 Betrayal The first of six short films looking at an individual's decision to turn away from friends, family, philosophy or a political cause (901665)
8.00 Stratosfear Judy Leden *attempts to* glide down to earth from 40,000 ft (r) (T) (6873)



Outspoken dinner guests (9.00pm)

9.00 CHOICE Cutting Edge: The Dinner Party Paul Watson's controversial fly-on-the-wall film, featuring eight *loyal Tories from Suffolk as they discuss* the past 18 years of Conservative *government* (T) (6637)
10.00 Dark Skies: The Enemy Within A spy is discovered inside Majestic and John is horrified to find his brother drawn towards an alien hive (T) (9724)
11.00 NBA Raw Action from the Detroit Pistols v the Chicago Bulls (38397)
12.00 CHOICE For the Love Of Jon Ronson meets people who search for mythical or "displaced" creatures such as the yeti and pumas roaming England (T) (6578651)
1.05am Jesus Before Christ A.N. Wilson travels to holy sites in Israel to find out more about the real Jesus (r) (4581583)
2.05 Hamlet (1969) with Nicol Williamson as FILM *the Danish prince and Anthony Hopkins* as Claudius. Filmed at the Round House, London, *and directed by Tony* Richardson (T) (83211477)
4.15 Fool's Gold (1946, b/w) Western FILM adventure with William Boyd playing Hopalong Cassidy (4906800)
5.25 Backdate (r) (T) (7302699)

Coming on 5 unday.
Channel 5 launches 6pm on Easter Sunday.

SATELLITE AND CABLE

● **For more comprehensive listings of satellite and cable channels, see the Directory, published on Saturday**

SKY 1

6.00am *Morning Glory* (720873) **9.00** Regis and Kathie Lee (67366) **10.00** Another World (26434) **11.00** Days of Our Lives (46298) **12.00** The Oprah Winfrey Show (89326) **1.00pm** Geraldo (98076) **2.00** Sally Jessy Raphael (75396) **3.00** Jenny Jones (96502) **4.00** The Oprah Winfrey Show (17637) **5.00** Star Trek: The Next Generation (6163) **6.00** Real TV (2453) **6.30** Married — with Children (3706) **7.00** The Simpsons (7892) **7.30** M*A*S*H (9989) **8.00** Springhill (31705) **10.00** Nash Bridges (43540) **11.00** Selina Scott Tonight (18366) **11.30** Star Trek: The Next Generation (16163) **12.30am** L.A.P.D. (52212) **1.00** Hit Me Long Play (1566941)

SKY 2

7.00pm Hercules: The Legendary Journeys (6598873) **8.00** Star Trek: Voyager (6507521) **9.00** *Poltergeist: The Legacy* (6594057) **10.00** The Outer Limits (6597144) **11.00** *Late Show* (6128347) **12.00** Hit Mix (9091187)

SKY NEWS

Worldwide news coverage, *with bulletins on the hour*, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

SKY MOVIES

6.00am Overboard (1978) (81182) **8.00 Two for the Road (1967)** (93618) **10.00 Radioland Murders (1994)** (38827) **12.00 Fugitive Family (1980)** (341927) **1.45pm Lady Jane (1985)** (82521521) **4.00 Back Home (1990)** (19853415) **5.45 Radioland Murders (1994)** (68510705) **7.30 Behind-the-Scenes: Star Wars** (4057) **8.00 Highlander III: The Sorcerer (1994)** (26873) **10.00 Suspicious Agenda (1994)** (132163) **11.40 Robin Cook's Mortal Fear (1994)** (542705) **1.10am Mr Jones (1993)** (332600) **3.00 Next Door (1995)** (218477) **4.35 Overboard (1978)** (33757038)

THE MOVIE CHANNEL

6.00am A Girl Must Live (1939) (83569) **7.30 Samson and Sally (1995)** (1629960) **8.40 The Dragon That Wasn't, or Was He? (1995)** (2656163) **10.00 Helen of Troy (1956)** (38808) **12.00 My Brother's Keeper (1994)** (25881) **2.00pm Bandit's Silver Angel (1994)** (32434) **4.00 The Dragon That Wasn't, or Was He? (1995)** (9637) **6.00 Johnny's Girl (1995)** (52298) **8.00 Six Degrees of Separation (1993)** (24415) **10.00 Kiss of Death (1995)** (8982986) **11.45 Menace II Society (1993)** (3428873) **1.25am The Disappearance of Vonnie (1994)** (2176232) **3.00 You Talkin' to Me? (1987)** (9582212) **4.40 Samson and Sally (1995)** (1165421)

SKY MOVIES GOLD

6.00pm Shepherd of the Hills (1941) (3390989) **8.00 Beetlejuice (1988)** (3395434) **10.00 Rocky (1976)** (70202298) **12.05am Turk 182! (1985)** (1370372) **1.45 Themi (1954)** (2400274) **3.20-5.00 The Letter (1940)** (3940632)

TNT

9.00pm It Happened at the World's Fair (1963) (92698873) **11.00 The Asphalt Jungle (1950)** (81980521) **1.00am Advance to the Rear (1964)** (84387632) **2.45-5.00 It Happened at the World's Fair (1963)** (43974019)

SKY SPORTS 1

7.00am World Sport Special (63989) **7.30** Beach Volleyball (19908) **8.30** Racing News (76989) **9.00** World of Speed and Beauty (90569) **9.30** Aerobics Oz Style (96231) **10.00** Rugby League: Super League (16095) **12.00** Aerobics Oz Style (70705) **12.30pm** Football Special (52366) **2.00** Basketball: Leopards v Chester Jets (87908) **4.00** World Wide Rugby (7811) **6.00** Sports Centre (4827) **6.30** Tartan Extra (1989) **7.00** Football: Arsenal v Liverpool — Live (6917160) **10.30** Sports Centre (90182) **11.00** Tartan Extra (56540) **11.30** High 5 (45095) **12.00** Football: Arsenal v Liverpool (349003) **2.00am-2.30** Sports Centre

SKY SPORTS 3

12.00 South Africa v Australia — Third Test — Live (69100705) **3.30pm** Football League Review (88927521) **6.00** Rebel Sports (83318095) **6.30** High 5 (85306347) **7.00** Sports Centre (70265960) **7.30** Surfing Championships (29009889) **8.30-11.30** Wrestlemania XII (92012250)

EUROSPORT

7.30am Football: World Cup Legends (19796) **8.30** Rugby Union: World Cup Sevens (65279) **9.30** Ski-Jumping: World Cup (28057) **10.30** Nordic Combined Skiing (80637) **12.00** NASCAR: Champion Chip (93750) **1.00pm** Rally: Raid — Raid Gauloises (20298) **2.00** Tennis: Lipton Championship (72076) **4.00** Tennis: Lipton Championship — Live (8580602) **9.00** Martial Arts (737051) **10.00** Eurogoals (76892) **11.00-12.30am** Snooker: European League (690951)

UK GOLD

7.00am Tellytubbies (6483998) **7.35** Neighbours (9244569) **8.00** Countdown (1908144) **8.25** EastEnders (8270709) **9.00** The Bill (5727308) **9.30** Emeli (3561863) **10.00** Never the Twain (4125724) **10.30** The Sullivans (2744540) **11.00** Bergerac (8070182) **12.00** Crossroads (2735892) **12.30pm** Neighbours (2579276) **1.00** EastEnders (7276256) **1.35** Dick Emery Show (9057085) **2.05** A Daddy Big Bi' of Dosco (4935741S) **2.20** Fawlty Towers: Basil the Rat (7313892) **2.55** Allo Allo! (6616786) **3.30** The Bill (8122415) **4.00** All Creatures Great and Small (5275705) **5.00** Bruce Forsyth's Generation Game (8630705) **6.05** EastEnders (6030778) **6.40** Are You Being Served? (3464366) **7.20** Russ Abbot (7256724) **7.50** Bullseye (1564902) **8.30** Riders (2516705) **10.30** The Bill (5685802) **11.05** Dr Who: Death to the Daleks (6052366) **12.50am FILM: Apache Woman** (8706019) **2.15** Shopping at Night (52506699)

GRANADA PLUS

6.00am *The Krypton Factor* (2502250) **6.30** Once Upon a Time (99629899) **6.45** Our Backyard (1555672) **7.00** Wheels (4007057) **7.15** Once Upon a Time (5413521) **7.30** Children's Ward (6465590) **8.00** Classic Coronation Street (4062637) **8.30** Families (4661908) **9.00** The Professionals (2528298) **10.00** Please Sir! (7767347) **10.30** The Brothers (4641144) **11.00** Within These Walls (6451295) **12.00** Classic Coronation Street (4668734) **12.30pm** Families (7557124) **1.00** Crown Court (6452786) **1.30** The Good Life (Sues (7536416) **2.00** A Family at War (7788079) **3.00** Up Start Downstairs (1553550) **4.00** The Doctor Series: In the House (2709308) **4.30** Please Sir! (6796992) **5.00** The Professionals (6670434) **6.00** Families (6787057) **6.30** Classic Coronation Street (6701627) **7.00** The Dentist Series (6871103) **7.30** No — How are (6795210) **8.00** Upstairs Downstairs (7076990) **9.00** Classic Coronation Street (1575525) **9.30** The Comedians (7557304) **10.00-11.00** The Professionals (7291511)



*Supernatural comedy in **Beetle Juice*** **(Sky Movies Gold, 8.00pm)**

THE DISNEY CHANNEL

6.00am Chuck Tracks (4278601) **6.25** Quest Area (1256396) **6.50** Bonkers (3191450) **7.15** The Little Mermaid (1213627) **7.40** Aquan (2790347) **8.05** Brand Spanking New Doug (3803163) **8.30** Timon and Pumbaa (4795499) **8.40** The Quiz Show (1283069) **9.10** Grounding Mason (2603182) **9.40** Big Garage (9874163) **9.55** Lamb Chop (9691231) **10.25** Mickey Mouse Works (5752231) **10.50** Dumbo's Circus (1693618) **11.20** Mouse Tracks (4270679) **11.50** Welcome to Pooh Corner (7752979) **12.20pm** Timon and Pumbaa (3675679) **12.35** The Little Mermaid (3667724) **1.00** Walt Disney Presents (7181315) **1.50** Aladdin (4242673) **2.10** Disney's Sing Along Songs (3773279) **2.35** Bonkers (5822416) **3.00** Quack Attack (4132255) **3.25** Timon and Pumbaa (4536076) **3.35** Goof Troop (3615279) **4.00** Timon and Pumbaa (3665434) **4.35** Bonkers (5571705) **5.00** Aladdin (8745417) **5.25** Timon and Pumbaa (8076912) **5.35** Darkwing Duck (5462319) **6.00** Brand Spanking New Doug (6809) **6.30** Sing Along Songs (4231) **7.00** Brotherly Love (9677) **7.30 FILM: A Mother's Gift** (5545) **9.00** A Pup Named Scooby Doo (7487) **9.30-10.00** [illegible]

FOX KIDS NETWORK

5.00am *Three Little Ghosts* **5.30** *Inspector* Gadget (7167811) **7.00** Samurai Pizza Cats (6142927) **7.30** Eagle Riders (6121434) **8.00** Hero Turtles (7109076) **8.30** Masked Rider (7108347) **9.00** Big Bad Beetleborgs (7122927) **9.30** Power Rangers Zeo (6921705) **10.00** Casper (7158163) **10.30** Ace Ventura (7111811) **11.00** Life with Louie (2650502) **11.30** The Tick (2651231) **12.00** Incredible Hulk (7102163) **12.30pm** Mortal Kombat (6995521) **1.00** Highlander (6141298) ***1.30 Eagle Riders*** (8994892) **2.00** Hero Turtles (4254705) **2.30** Masked Rider (1907796) **3.00** Big Bad Beetleborgs (4266540) **3.30** Power Rangers Zeo (6952291) **4.00** Casper (7207188) **4.30** Ace Ventura (1007340) **5.00** Spiderman (4245057) **5.30** Goosebumps (7302732) **6.00** Sweet Valley High (8406205) **6.30-7.00** Sweet Valley High (6857647)

TCC

6.00am Anne of Green Gables/Road to Avonlea (93231) **7.00** Batman (68057) **7.30** Art Attack (70892) **8.00** Dennis the Menace (41892) **10.00** Romuald the Reindeer (51279) **10.30** Robinson Sucroe (25279) **11.00** Dinger Mouse (84347) **11.30** Gravedale High (86076) **12.00** Oscar's Orchestra (61601) **12.30pm** Halfway *Across the Galaxy and Turn Left* (36873) **1.00** By the Way of the Stars (67328) **1.30** Black Beauty (35144) **2.00** Girl from Tomorrow (7076) **2.30** Ocean Odyssey (5724) **3.00** Art Attack (9811) **3.30** Flash Gordon (7569) ***4.00*** Batman (6076) **4.30-5.00** The Big Dish (5960)

CARTOON NETWORK

Non-stop cartoons from **5.00am** to **9.00pm** includes Tom and Jerry, Popeye and The Flintstones

NICKELODEON

6.00am Teenage Mutant Hero Turtles (94434) **6.30** Count Duckula (23879) **7.00** Captain Simian and the Space Monkeys (54231) **7.30** Tales from the Cryptkeeper (73268) **8.00** Bruno the Kid (68960) **8.30** Hey Arnold! (57231) **9.00** Rugrats (81811) **9.30** Rugrats (94873) **10.00** Aaahh! Real Monsters (47453) **10.30** Doug (87695) **11.00** Rocko's Modern Life (39873) **11.30** Bailey Kipper's Point of View (30502) **12.00** Kenan and Kel (78347) **12.30pm** The Secret World of Alex Mack (43219) ***1.00*** Sister Sister (53502) **1.30** Moesha (37960) ***2.00*** *The Fenals (2502)* **2.30** *Round the* Twist (9750) **3.00** Stickin' Around (1637) **3.30** Aaahh! Real Monsters (2095) **4.00** Doug (1502) **4.30** Doug (7786) **5.00** Doug (6182) **5.30** Doug (1366) **6.00** Press Gang (8279) **6.30-7.00** Doug (2231)

TROUBLE

12.00 Heartbreak High (2576182) **1.00pm** Madison (8076366) **1.30** Sweet Valley High (2563618) **2.00** Hangtime (4046927) **2.30** California Dreams (8145366) **3.00** Byker Grove (4025434) **3.30** Blasi (5140811) **4.00** Sweet Valley High (8136618) **4.30** Hangtime (8125502) **5.00** Saved by the Bell (4037279) ***5.30*** *California Dreams* (8149182) **6.00** Byker Grove (8146095) **6.30** Madison (8137347) **7.00-8.00** Heartbreak High (3329906)

BRAVO

8.00pm Robocop (3305328) **9.00** The Burning Zone (3318892) **10.00** Tour of Duty (3328279) **11.00 FILM: Devil Man** (6726724) **1.00am** The Burning Zone (7337336) **2.00** Tour of Duty (9450125) **3.00 FILM: Devil Man** (2574729) **5.00** Robocop

PARAMOUNT COMEDY

7.00pm Entertainment UK (3618) **7.30** Roseanne (8415) **8.00** Roseanne (2366) **8.30** Monty Python's Flying Circus (1873) **9.00** Cheers (59637) **9.30** Taxi (18453) **10.00** It's Garry Shandling's Show (79076) **10.30** Frasier (88724) **11.00** In Bed with Me Dinner (54182) **11.30** Monty Python's Flying Circus (43637) **12.00** Nurses (11477) **12.30am** Soap (928001) **1.00** Cheers (38816) **1.30** Taxi (77293) **2.00** Entertainment UK (99090) **2.30** In Bed with Me Dinner (18125) **3.00** Frasier (413801) **3.30-4.00** It's Garry Shandling's Show (81467)

THE SCI-FI CHANNEL

8.00pm The Guyver (3560298) **8.30** The Twilight Zone (3549705) **9.00** Sightings (7060724) ***9.55*** *Earthscan* (2379304) **10.00** Starman (4274328) **11.00** The Invaders (6965095) **12.00** The Incredible Hulk (9217309) **1.00am** The Twilight Zone (1711125) **1.30** Tales of the Unexpected (3834835) **2.00** 100 Years of Horror (6112099) **2.30** Night Gallery (1962338) ***3.00-4.00*** *Friday the 13th* (7195336)

TLC

9.00am The Joy of Painting (2753298) **9.30** Gardeners' Diary (2568705) ***10.00*** *Two's* Country Cooking (4123988) **10.30** Our House (2742182) **11.00** Fix It (5282095) **11.30** This Old House (5283724) **12.00** Yan Can Cook (2733434) **12.30pm** Graham Kerr (2560521) **1.00** Today's Gourmet (8072540) **1.30** Home Again with Bob Vila (2569892) **2.00** Homeima (4019873) **2.30** Furniture to Go (8141540) **3.00** Two's Country (4088908) ***3.30-4.00*** *This Old* House (8120057)

DISCOVERY

4.00pm Fishing Adventures II (8132992) **4.30** Australia Wild (8138076) **5.00** Treasure Hunters (4033453) **5.30** *Beyond 2000* (8129328) **6.00** Wild Things (2578540) **7.00** *Invention* (4020989) **7.30** Wonders of Weather (8139705) **8.00** History's Turning Points (4039637) **8.30** Bush Tucker Man (4018144) **9.00** Lonely Planet (3321368) **10.00** Arthur C Clarke — the Visionary (3324453) **11.00** Wings (8066989) **12.00** Classic Wheels (2478748) **1.00am** Driving Passions (4148496) **1.30-2.00** The Extremists (6786106)

THE HISTORY CHANNEL

4.00pm Biography: Heroes of the Bible (8904298) **5.00** Civil War Journal (3543521) **6.00** Weapons at War (6082366) **7.00-8.00** Biography: General Patton (4275057)

CHALLENGE TV

Win with Prize Time twice an hour
5.05pm Blockbusters (1798144) **5.50** Spellbound (554250) **6.30** Catchphrase (484960) **7.05** Sale of the Century (379724) **7.40** Give Us A Clue (516328) **8.20** All Clued Up (409724) ***9.00*** *Through the* Keyhole (758434) **9.35** Busman's Holiday (683163) **10.05** Treasure Hunt (141960) **11.20** Love at First Sight (923076) **12.00** Sale of the Century (59651) **12.30pm** Hart to Hart (28036) **1.30** Lou Grant (43589) **2.30** Chroby (99895) **3.30** All Together Now (47651) **4.00** The Fall Guy (60748) **5.00** HSN Direct Shopping (6848496)

UK LIVING

8.00am Tiny Living (2042434) **9.00** Gladrags and Glamour (3861434) **9.15** The Gordon Elliott Show (8823540) **10.05** Jerry Springer Uncut (4977366) **11.00** The Young and the Restless (8371095) **11.45** Super Fresco Fabulousous (14758999) **11.50** Brookside (80050083) **12.25pm** Take a Letter (70081618) **12.55** Tempest (3669163) **1.40** Rolonda (9095076) **2.30** The Heat is On (2270960) **3.00** Easter Live at Three (49679434) **4.05** The Jerry Springer Show (5670927) **5.00** Super Fresco Fabulousous (37111540) **5.05** Ungo (84335415) **5.30** Lucky Ladders (2281076) ***6.00*** *I Dream of Jeanne* (6357057) **6.35** Ready, Steady, Cook (3945076) **7.05** Brookside (1927453) **7.40** Who's Sorry Now? (6946453) **8.05** Rolonda (8260298) **9.00 FILM: Night Owl** (3362347) **11.00-12.00** The Sex Files (1470328)

ZEE TV

7.00am Jaagran **7.30** ZEE Morning **8.30** Out and About **9.00 FILM: Jaag Utha Insaan** **11.30** Kurukshetra **12.00** Parampara **12.30pm** Dhoop Aur Chaon **1.00 FILM: Nachdi Jawani** **4.00** ZEE Zone Presents **4.10** BBCD **4.45** Hum Panch **5.15**



PAYDAY 45
Roger Bootle on impact of a minimum wage

BUSINESS

WAY AHEAD 46
UK must not turn says William Waldegrave



MONDAY MARCH 24 1997

Legal pressure may force BAT to bring demerger forward

BY MARTIN WALLER

THE growing legal pressure on American tobacco companies is expected to force BAT Industries, owner of Brown & Williamson and the Lucky Strike brand, to bring forward plans for a split between these and its financial services activities.

BAT, which has played down speculation of a demerger in the past, was coming under increasing pressure from its shareholders even before last week's unexpected surrender by Liggett, maker of Chesterfields and one of the biggest US cigarette producers, to the anti-tobacco lobby groups.

Now investors are likely to seek a firm promise of a deadline for hiving off tobacco amid reports that BAT is attempting to create a fighting fund along with other US tobacco firms to oppose the escalating legal action. BAT itself is believed to have decided internally that demerger could take place by the end of the year. Such a promise would mean a sharp rise for the share price, which ended last week at 494p after managing to shrug off the Liggett announcement.

Liggett unsettled the rest of the industry by admitting for the first time that cigarettes were addictive and offering to turn over a quarter of pre-tax profits for the next 25 year to a fund that will pay out to smokers who contract an illness and sue. The industry has always denied any addictive qualities for tobacco and insisted the data in health studies linking smoking with disease are unproven.

BAT's tobacco operations, although profitable, have always acted as a drag on the share price because of the possible damage from future litigation, and demerger was being firmly considered as early as last summer. However, Martin Broughton, BAT's chief executive, has insisted that this or any other deal under consideration would have to be seen to add clear shareholder value before it was considered.

Last summer BAT relaunched its financial services side, which takes in the insurance companies Eagle Star and Allied Dunbar in the UK and Farmers in the US, as British American Financial Services. The company has been in talks over possible co-operative ventures with a range of other businesses including Commercial Union, but the existence of the tobacco arm has put off potential joint venture partners.

Meanwhile, the drag on the share price has limited BAT's ability to make straight acquisitions in financial services through the issue of new equity. A demerger would allow that arm to go forward, while a deal with other US tobacco groups to stand firm against litigation would share future damages and strengthen the tobacco business once this had been cut free.

BAT is believed to be considering appointing financial advisers to the tobacco side as a precursor to a split. The group's current brokers are Cazenove and de Zoete & Bevan, owned by Barclays de Zoete Wedd, while its merchant bankers are Lazards and SBC Warburg.

Prospects for jobs at highest in 7 years

BY PHILIP BASSETT
INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

PROSPECTS for jobs will be at a seven-year high over the general election period, according to an employment survey from the Manpower employment agency today.

The survey, which comes after government figures last week that showed a further big drop in unemployment and continuing job growth, suggests that for the second quarter of this year job prospects remain good.

Of a sample of more than 2,000 employers, 26 per cent forecast an increase in job levels for the three months ending in June, while 12 per cent predict a fall — a net balance of 14 per cent.

The figure is the most optimistic second-quarter forecast produced by Manpower since the start of the decade. It marks an increase of five percentage points on the findings for the same period in 1996.

Regionally, the West Midlands is the most optmistic area, recording a rise of 19 percentage points over the same period last year. While job prospects in the South also look high, London is trailing the national job average, and East Anglia and the North West are the least optimistic areas about jobs in the country.

Ballot 97, page 6

Thyssen and Krupp draw battle lines

BY OLIVER AUGUST

AN unprecedented £5 billion takeover battle in Germany is expected to turn hostile this week despite intense political pressure on the two companies to agree to a merger.

Thyssen, the steel producer, will today resume talks with Krupp, which made the hostile bid, but both companies continue to prepare for battle.

Helmut Werner, chief executive of Mercedes Benz, chaired secret talks at the weekend between Dieter Vogel, Thyssen's chief executive, and Gerhard Cromme, Krupp's chief executive. Herr Werner, the well-respected elder statesman of German industry, was called in because he is seen as the mediator most likely to bring about a merger.

But in the meantime, executives from both companies have sought the advice of American investment bankers who possess experience of takeover battles. Hostile takeovers are almost unheard of in Germany and German banks have no experience of them. Thyssen has hired Morgan Stanley while Krupp is being advised by Goldman Sachs.

Morgan Stanley is said to have devised a defensive strategy to prevent Krupp from purchasing Thyssen shares at a 25 per cent premium after the end of the talks. The deadline for talks set by Krupp runs out on Thursday.

Thyssen is also believed to be considering the launch of its own hostile bid for Krupp, which is only half the size of Thyssen. In the past there had been fears that the federal cartel office would object to such a move.

Krupp suggested the framework for the talks last week after its bid was greeted with strong political hostility in Germany, where industrial disputes are expected to be settled through compromise. Politicians and unions accused the Krupp board of behaving like "Wild West cowboys".

But Krupp executives are now said to regret making the merger talks offer. They believe that Thyssen executives are only slightly less opposed to a merger than they are to a straight takeover.

Thyssen is suspected of conducting the talks in order to win more time to devise a defence strategy. Krupp has emphasised repeatedly that talks would not be extended beyond Thursday.

Together with the main political parties, Thyssen is also thought to be exerting political pressure on Krupp's bankers, especially Deutsche Bank, not to provide the credit needed to buy a majority of the Thyssen shares.

Both main political parties have a strong interest in stopping the takeover. The Social Democrats traditionally style themselves as the defenders of manual jobs, thousands of which are set to go if Krupp is successful.

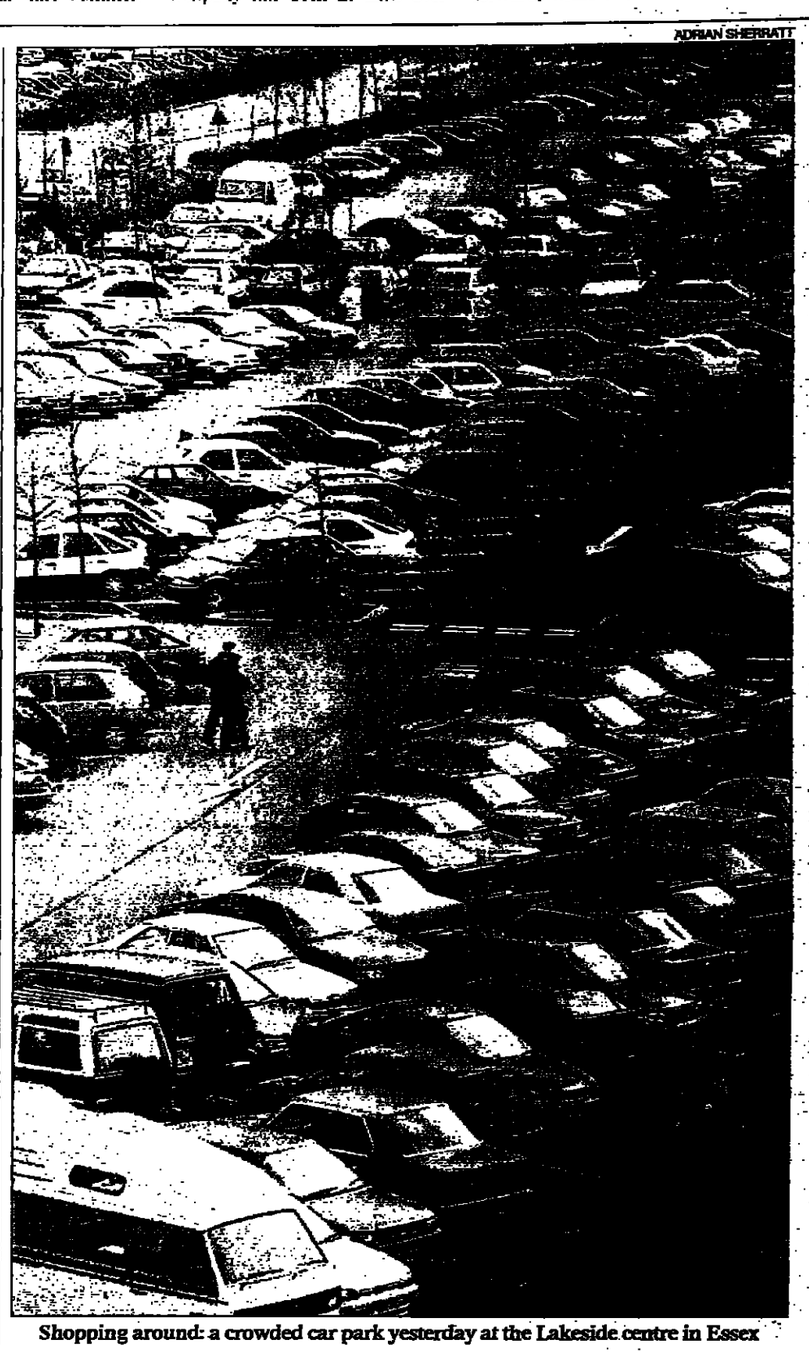
Chancellor Kohl's Christian Democrats are keen to keep unemployment down in the run-up to next year's general election and in order to bring down welfare spending to meet the Maastricht criteria for a single currency.

Thyssen's works council called on some 50,000 workers to stage a protest tomorrow in Frankfurt, taking their protest to the nation's financial capital. Georg Bongen, the Thyssen works council leader, said: "We are going to Frankfurt because we fear that our future cannot be helped by the democratically elected government in Bonn, but will instead be decided by the banks."

The banks have shown little reaction to the pressure so far. A top Deutsche Bank official may resign from the Thyssen supervisory board after the protests. Ulrich Cartellieri, who represents Deutsche's shareholder interests on the Thyssen board, said: "I will not rule out that I will give up my mandate at the end of the meeting on Thursday."

Studies by Deutsche, Dresdner and Goldman Sachs show a merger could show positive results as early as spring 1998, according to *Der Spiegel*, Germany's news magazine.

ADRIAN SHERRATT



Shopping around: a crowded car park yesterday at the Lakeside centre in Essex

Inflation worries over boom

BY JANET BUSH
ECONOMICS EDITOR

KENNETH CLARKE, the Chancellor, has engineered a pre-election consumer boom that will present the next government with an uncomfortable legacy of rising inflation and a manufacturing sector suffering under an uncompetitive exchange rate, the Oxford Economic Forecasting says.

Oxford assumes the boom will not deliver an election victory to the Conservatives and that a Labour government is set for a bumpy economic ride over the next two years, with immediate upward pressure on base rates.

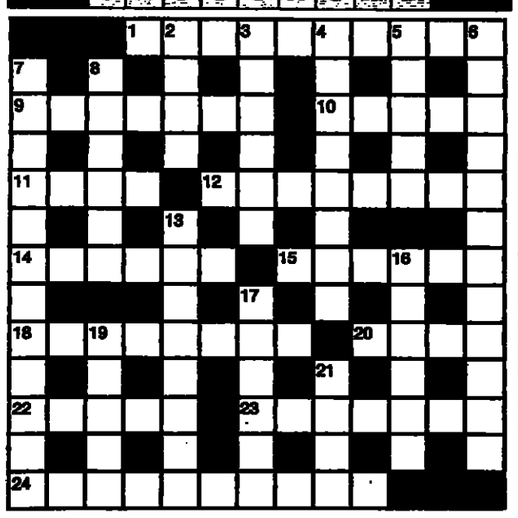
In 1997, growth is likely to strengthen further in the short term, led by buoyant consumer demand fuelled by tax cuts, low interest rates, rapidly falling unemployment and building society windfalls. Oxford predicts consumer spending to rise 4.2 per cent this year.

But then growth is expected to be curbed by a continued rally in sterling that will make exporting more difficult and hold back investment. Strong domestic demand and weaker exports are expected to mean that net trade becomes a serious drag on growth, increasing Britain's current account deficit to £6 billion in 1997, from £1.5 billion in 1996.

Overall, the economy is predicted to grow 3.1 per cent this year, but then fall to only 1.8 per cent in 1998. It is next year when the impact of the pound on exports is likely to be felt most and, at the same time, consumers will be hit by higher interest rates.

Economic outlook, page 43

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 1049

ACROSS

1 Miss stroke (rowing) (5,1,4)
9 Passage; end of plane trip (7)
10 (Nose) cleared: (fuse) burned out (5)
11 Pie; *2 dn* (4)
12 War memorial (8)
14 Peak (6)
15 *Due* from son (6)
18 Weak-heeled hero (8)
20 Difficult (4)
22 Diplomat; messenger (5)
23 Denseness; unintelligibility (7)
24 Amuse delightfully (6,4)

DOWN

2 Sharp; biting (4)
3 James —, US gangster-film star (6)
4 Food of the gods (8)
5 A Spanish red (5)
6 Statutory days off (4,8)
7 First part of Bible (3,9)
8 NE-most Irish county (6)
13 Unfaithful (8)
16 Sloping, emphatic type (6)
17 Get back (expenses) (6)
19 Devastation, chaos (5)
21 Admonish (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 1048

ACROSS: 1 Body 3 Offender 8 Rave 9 Fabulous 11 Basketball 14 Cruise 15 Demise 17 Financiers 20 Surplice 21 Puce 22 Apposite 23 Desk

DOWN: 1 Bareback 2 Davis Cup 4 Flambé 5 Ebullience 6 Doom 7 Rose 10 Versailles 12 Sinecure 13 Newspeak 16 Fat cat 18 Asia 19 Prop

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South West Trains plays down fines

South West Trains, the operator owned by Stagecoach and in hot water over cancellations of services in the South East, has played down suggestions that it faces heavy fines over the cancellations. Brian Cox, chairman of SWT, was to face the House of Commons Transport Committee last week, but the hearing was cancelled because of the election.

In a bid to set the record straight, he last night published his company's version of events. SWT intends to restore the full timetable on its routes at Easter, keeping its performance within the thresholds set by the Office of Passenger Rail Franchising. "By doing so we are confident we will avoid the penalty," he says.

Sale hint

Lonrho shareholders will press the new management at Wednesday's annual meeting for news on the proposed demerger, to be met with a hint of an eventual sale of the African sugar business. Tate & Lyle is thought to be interested. Nicholas Morrell, chief executive, will come under attack from Pirc, which monitors corporate governance and is urging shareholders to block Sir John Craven's appointment as chairman. Sir John is chairman of Deutsche Morgan Grenfell, Lonrho's merchant bank.

Bank ratings

The Bank of England is considering the introduction of a numerical rating system to classify banks according to their risk profile, similar to that used by Moody's or Standard & Poor's, the bond rating agencies. The system, which would be confidential, forms part of the Bank's proposed framework for supervision developed in response to criticisms made after the collapse of Barings.

Drummond and Microsoft in software fight

BY FRASER NELSON

MICROSOFT, the world's largest software house has challenged Drummond, the Bradford textiles group, to a High Court battle, after the worsted and woollens manufacturer was found using unauthorised copies of computer programmes.

The software giant has joined forces with Lotus, the business software publisher, to issue a writ demanding damages from Drummond, which has admitted using multiple copies of *Microsoft Word* and *Lotus 1-2-3*.

Drummond, which is quoted on the stock market with a value of £10 million, said it was astonished to learn that it had unauthorised software in use. Stefan Simmonds, chairman of Drummond said: "Microsoft told us that we had a problem: we did a complete audit and found we were at fault. They were right that the law is on their side and we're grateful that they told us.

"We offered what we considered a very fair sum in compensation, but then they tried to extract an unreasonably large amount of money from us. They threatened us with High Court action and some bad publicity, but we told them we are not fussed about publicity."

He added that the company was prepared to pay only an appropriate sum of money.

The action is being filed through the Business Software Alliance (BSA), a body set up to rein in the proliferation of copied software in use by businesses.

Evan Cox, from law firm Covington & Burling, is acting for the BSA. He says: "We are seeking the full damages from Drummond, which we are entitled to under the law. We would have liked to have resolved this out of court but we could not agree on the final settlement."

Drummond is accused of using 97 copies of *Microsoft Words*, while having licences for 11, and using 90 copies of *Lotus 1-2-3* with only 19 licences.

Microsoft was informed about Drummond through the BSA's "Software theft hotline" which offers up to £2,500 to employees who give information about inlicensed software which leads to a successful swoop.

Mr Simmonds said: "It is entirely plausible that the call was made by somebody who did the copies themself. It would certainly be an easy way to make £2,500".

IN BUSINESS TOMORROW



JANET BUSH looks at labour market flexibility on the day US interest rates could rise

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Black Horse Life	101.68
Scottish Amicable	108.00
Scottish Life	137.40
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HONDA

First man, then machine.

Bonn hangs up party balloons but Kohl's credit runs out with Club Med



Horst Haitzinger's view of Kohl and Theo Waigel as pained parents as Germany shouts: "Hoorah, I've failed again"

INSIDE



Roger Boyes

GERMANY

We are all invited, even the surly party-poopers of the British contingent, to attend the 40th birthday celebration of an old friend, the Treaty of Rome. The European Commission, which is paying for the Bonn event this week — free balloons, raffle tickets and a panel discussion on the euro — has decided to stage the party in the German Modern History Museum, not far from the office of Helmut Kohl, the Chancellor.

The message is obvious: the Treaty of Rome has been good for Germany. Twelve years after the conclusion of a devastating war, it handed Bonn a ticket to respectability. German politicians thus have a special duty to other founder members, including Italy. Everything that Herr Kohl is doing, however, suggests Germany is preparing to discard this responsibility.

Foreign ministers travel to Rome tomorrow for the official treaty anniversary. The mood is likely to be less than jolly. There is no mistaking the tension between Germany and Italy as the decisions on economic and monetary union creep up fast. The situation recalls schooldays on the sports pitch when two captains were told to choose their teams from a huddled mass. I was one of the last to be picked and so my heart beats for Club Med as Captain Kohl, the great selector, switches his reluctant gaze to the no-hopers.

Herr Kohl's official line is that the choice for EMU will be made only in April 1998 after the French have staggered through their elections. In truth, everything is happening more quickly and all ministerial or Bundesbank indiscretions seem to smack of a pre-selection. Those in Bonn who argue for a delay of EMU say the decision has to be reached soon after the 1997 tax projections are available in May; that month's unemployment figures should also signal whether Bonn is able to meet Maastricht public spending targets. To protect EMU the markets have to be given local anaesthetic. That means either signposting a postponement strategy by the end of the year — or alerting and soothing those countries left out of a small but perfectly performed EMU start-up in 1999. Herr Kohl, sadly, is not up to either task. Romano Prodi, the Italian Prime Minister, spotted this quickly, urging Herr Kohl to show more leadership on EMU.

Germany, once a measuring rod for Italy and Spain, has become an object of suspicion. Herr Kohl's twin aims of creating an EMU acceptable to the German people and of enlarging Europe eastwards are seen as directly hostile to the interests of the Mediterranean states.

The Kohl bridge to the South was concentrated too heavily on his personal friendship with Felipe González and was little more than gesture politics, a hint that Southerners need not look solely to France for their champion in Europe. The Government's true evaluation of the South was probably best exposed in the 1994 Schäuble-Lamers Christian Democratic strategy paper, which made plain that Spain, Portugal and Italy could not expect to become members of the "hard core" in the near future. Opinion polls show this to be a popular line with the business community and the population generally.

Herr Kohl's personal tone does not reassure his Southern partners. After Spanish and Italian summits recently, he tried clumsily to position the South closer to German hearts: the place where millions of fellow countrymen lay their beach towels every summer. He thus ignored the South's message: that their efforts to meet the EMU criteria must be taken seriously.

As long as the German economy splutters unhappily, so Herr Kohl's right to pose as a team captain will be questioned by the stragglers. Spain, while disdaining the Club Med label, can see that the South, united, can block all of Herr Kohl's favourite projects if Southerners are put on the reserve bench. Captain Kohl, it seems, is losing his goal-scoring touch. Time, perhaps, for a transfer.

Russians attack Yeltsin over Nato concessions

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

A STORM of protest greeted President Yeltsin when he returned from his summit meeting in Helsinki at the weekend as opposition leaders condemned his agreements with President Clinton as "capitulation" and "betrayal".

Even before the Russian leader's jet touched down in Moscow, hardline Communists predicted that Mr Yeltsin's failure to halt Nato's expansion plans would lead to Russia's isolation and a re-division of Europe.

Gennadi Zyuganov, the Communist Party leader, who came second in last year's presidential race, said that plans to grant Russia a consultative role at Nato effectively meant that the Kremlin was being admitted "no further than Nato's cloakroom".

"The Helsinki agreements were effectively a Treaty of Versailles for Russia," said Mr Zyuganov, comparing Russia's present treatment by the Western alliance to that of Germany after its defeat in the First World War. "We have no trust in our President, who cannot plan two steps in advance and is guilty of completely betraying the national interests of the country."

Although his response was predictable, the Communists were not the only critics of Helsinki, and aside from a few liberal deputies in parliament most of the political establishment has come out strongly against Nato's expansion plans into East Europe.

Even Mr Yeltsin, who "agreed to disagree" with Mr Clinton, sounded less enthusiastic about the modest achievements of his two-day summit, in particular America's refusal to rule out one day admitting former Soviet republics into Nato. "Not everything went smoothly during the talks," he told reporters on Saturday. "We could not come to an agreement on several questions, such as the former Soviet nations not joining Nato." Even some apparent achievements on economic co-operation and arms control, announced by the two leaders on Friday, seemed less certain by yesterday.

A plan to slash strategic nuclear missiles to a ceiling of 2,500 warheads each by 2007, under a Start 3 treaty, looked far less likely since the reductions can take place only once the current Start 2 agreement is ratified by Russia's parliament. It is inconceivable that the assembly, dominated by the left-wing and nationalist Opposition, would pass the vote in the present political climate.

Similarly, a pledge by Mr Clinton to grant Russia a seat at the Group of Seven leading industrialised nations' summit is facing resistance. Ryutaro Hashimoto, the Japanese Prime Minister, said yesterday that tackling global economic problems should still be restricted to the original seven members.

However, it was not clear how much time Mr Yeltsin would devote to examining the results of his summit meeting, particularly since he has very pressing domestic problems awaiting his attention.

In his absence, the new reformist Government has grown increasingly concerned about the possible disruption, and the threat of violence, as a result of a national strike called for Thursday by millions of workers protesting at the non-payment of nearly £6 billion in wages.

Leading article, page 21

Belarus protest rally

Minsk: About 10,000 people marched to a "Day of Freedom" rally yesterday, the latest in a series of protests against the Soviet-style rule of President Lukashenko. Police used batons and teargas in an attempt to halt the unauthorised march, sponsored by the opposition Belarussian Popular Front, but did not try to stop the rally itself.

Among about 300 detained for taking part in the march were the First Secretary of the American Embassy, Serge Alexandrov, an ethnic Belarussian, and a former Interior Minister, Yuri Zakharenko, Interfax news agency reported.

Some demonstrators carried signs reading "We love Nato". *(AP)*

CLARO CORTES / REUTER



A man, his mouth taped in protest at China's treatment of the pro-democracy movement, marks the start of the final 100 days of British rule in Hong Kong

Kohl vows to meet target on currency

BY ROGER BOYES

HELMUT KOHL, the German Chancellor, yesterday tried to quash all talk of delaying the 1999 start of European economic and monetary union and called on Germans to pull together to keep the single currency on schedule.

The German Finance Minister, Theo Waigel, joined in the chorus of support for a punctual EMU and hinted at further austerity measures, including cuts in social benefits, to achieve the Maastricht criteria on public spending.

The German Government has clearly been unnerved by the growing appeal for postponing monetary union. Several trade union leaders have come out against a 1999 start, as have some central and private bankers, the most popular Social Democrat politician Gerhard Schröder, and a handful of the most influential newspapers.

Herr Kohl, who yesterday travelled to Bad Hofgastein for his annual fasting cure — when he eats only dry bread rolls — made his strongest attempt yet to promote the Maastricht timetable. "There can be no talk of a delay," he told the Sunday edition of *Die Welt*.

"Many of the self-appointed experts want a delay only so that the whole project can be put on ice. Others seem to get cold feet as soon as the wind blows in their face.

"Nothing has changed in my determination to fulfil the Maastricht criteria so that economic and monetary union can begin on time," the Chancellor added.



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Chinese cheer for the last 100 days

FROM JAMES PRINGLE IN BEIJING

HUNDREDS of people, some carrying banners like "Hong Kong comes home", cheered in Tiananmen Square as a huge electronic clock marking the number of days until China takes over the colony turned to 100 at midnight on Saturday.

Official newspapers carried front-page stories over the impending end of British colonial rule. "We have endured 100 years of shame. 100 years of resistance and 100 years of waiting," said the *Guangming Daily*. "Now, in another 100 days, the hopes of generations will be realised."

The *People's Daily*, flagship newspaper of the Communist Party, gave up much of its front page to the occasion and the role played in it by the paramount leader Deng Xiaoping, who died last month aged 92 before he could realise his ambition to see Hong Kong under Chinese rule.

It was the late leader who *formulated the "one country, two systems"* policy under which Hong Kong is to be administered for the next 50 years. "At this moment, we think even more fondly of Deng Xiaoping," the newspaper said.

In Hong Kong, thousands of residents took part in parades, rallies and other celebrations to mark the beginning of the last 100 days of British colonial rule. At the largest event, a crowd of about 7,000 snaked its way through the busy Wanchai district, waving Chinese flags and those of the future Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of China.

A handful of pro-democracy protesters, dressed in black with their mouths symbolically taped, held a protest around a statue of Queen Victoria, the monarch when Britain took Hong Kong, and carried banners protesting against the Tiananmen Square massacre by the Communist regime's troops in 1989.

Many in Hong Kong are taking a wait-and-see attitude to the handover, although China's stated plans to scrap and replace the elected legislature and to water down key local rights laws have evoked nervousness at home and protest abroad.

China ceded Hong Kong island to Britain in 1842 under the Treaty of Nanking after the Opium War, and Britain later added to its territory.



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Finding a cream that makes ageing skin young again is the dream of every cosmetic company. A laboratory in Israel may have some answers

The secret of young skin

The ageing process may be reversible, says **Anjana Ahuja**

Growing old is a miserable business. The slide downhill begins with a few lines around the eyes. The descent quickens as wrinkles become more deeply etched. As the glowing smoothness of youth turns inexorably into the pallid leatheriness of old age, who does not dream of staying forever young?

Now medical researchers claim to have taken an important step towards turning back the clock. A team of scientists at the Haifa Technion in Israel has taken samples of wrinkly skin from elderly volunteers and transformed them into "young" skin. But they admit they are still a long way from discovering the secret of eternal youth.

Small squares of skin were taken from the thighs of 20 patients aged between 75 and 85. Each human skin patch was grafted on to the back of a nude mouse, a hairless animal specially bred to have a feeble immune system. Its poor immunity rendered it incapable of rejecting the graft.

At the same time, the cut-and-graft procedure was repeated with samples from volunteers in their twenties. This second set of grafts provided a yardstick against which to measure quality. Dr Amos Gilhar, a dermatologist from the Skin Research Laboratory at the technion, monitored the progress of the transplanted skin under the microscope. His aim was to see whether aged skin could recover its youthful characteristics.

The skin, the largest organ of the human body, is made up of a thin outer layer (the epidermis) and a thicker layer beneath (the dermis). The epidermis is like armour-plating — it is tough and has an outer layer of dead cells. The dermis contains nerves, blood vessels and living cells.

Dr Gilhar investigated five skin properties that dwindle with age — the rate at which skin cells divide and renew themselves; the number of melanocytes, the cells that produce the pigment melatonin; the number of Langerhans cells, which act as sentinels to protect the skin from infection; the thickness of the epidermis and the number of blood vessels. As these attributes decline, the skin is less able to replenish itself. It gradually thins and becomes more sallow and translucent.

When Dr Gilhar observed the old samples three months after transplantation, he was stunned. "Under the microscope," he says, "the old grafted samples looked identical to the young grafted samples. We found a significant increase in both epidermal thickness and the rate at which the epidermis cells proliferated. However, the number of protective Langerhans cells did not increase."

Another feature that improved was the junction between the epidermis and the dermis. In youth, these two serrated layers interlock perfectly. As the years advance, the serrations become blunted and the alignment between them weakens, leaving the skin prone to blisters.

Dr Gilhar found that, in the transplanted skin, the two layers regained their serrated appearance and fitted together more closely. The number of blood vessels also increased. In short, as Dr Gilhar summarises in a research paper: "All these findings may indicate that part of the typical histological (tissue) changes of unexposed aged skin are reversible."

Further investigation revealed that transplantation appears to kick-start chemicals called cytokines. These proteins perform such bodily functions as regulating immune responses and instructing cells to divide. As a person ages, cytokines become scarcer, either because production slows down or their release into the skin is hindered. Dr Gilhar says: "We assume that the transplant procedure somehow led to enhanced secretion of these proteins."

Dr Gilhar and his team of ten researchers have been doing experiments for seven years. The work is funded solely by the technion and there are no plans to collaborate with any cosmetics companies. "There could be important commercial spin-offs," says Dr Gilhar, "but we want to concentrate on the basic science for at least two or three years."

There is intense competition in the beauty industry to find an elixir that will soothe the ravages of time. Two months ago, the collective quest to bottle youth looked as though it had succeeded. Syence, a cosmetic company, claimed it had developed a cream, Servital, which thickened the skin. The product, which cost £75 for 50ml, was hailed as an anti-ageing treatment. Tests by the BBC programme *Watchdog* showed that creams selling for under £5, including Oil of Ulay, produced comparable thickening.

Dr Gilhar, it seems, has hit on something that will do even better — cytokines. What about putting cytokines in a pot of cream and selling it as an age-defying potion? "That would be very complicated, but it may be possible in the future," he says. "The obstacle is that cytokines are not stable proteins." That would make it impossible to formulate a cream and sell it.

For now, he urges caution. "Skin is very complex and we have looked at only a few aspects. Yes, we have shown that some changes in the ageing skin can be reversed, but we need more experiments in more detail before we can assess whether we can use this information to turn back the clock. Of course, it would be a dream if we could reverse the ageing process in skin, but I don't think we could do it in humans in my lifetime."

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The circle of life



SCIENCE BRIEFING

Nigel Hawkes

ROTARY motion is not common in living things. Animals that run on wheels have yet to be discovered, evolution having favoured legs, fins or wings. A remarkable exception is provided by the whip-like flagella with which swimming bacteria propel themselves. These can whirl around at a prodigious rate, propelling the tiny bacteria through the water at speeds which, scaled up, would give us cars that could break the sound barrier.

So it is very satisfying to discover that hidden inside every cell in the body are even tinier motors, upon which we depend for energy. Japanese researchers report in the current *Nature* journal that they have discovered the smallest motor in creation — an enzyme that rotates to do its work and is only five millionths of a millimetre across. The job of the enzyme is to create adenosine triphosphate (ATP), the power source of the cells. Energy from food is converted by the enzyme, ATP synthase, into chemical energy in the form of ATP. The energy is stored in the bonds between the phosphate groups, and cells can use it by breaking off a phosphate and turning ATP into its close relation, adenosine diphosphate (ADP).

The enzyme consists of seven components — a central axle, and six sub-units wrapped around it to form a collar. The Japanese team, led by Dr Hiroyuki Noji of the Tokyo Institute of Technology, shows that the inner component is free to spin inside the collar. They proved this by attaching a fluorescent filament of a muscle protein to it and watching it through a microscope as it spun at up to four revolutions per second. The ATP synthase machine requires all seven of its components to work to accomplish its task. They also have to work in the right order. This is achieved by the rotor turning around so that the active sites of the sub-units forming the collar are presented to it one after the other. As it turns, the molecules of ATP are produced like sausages from a machine.

Biochemists know how quickly this reaction goes, so it is possible to work out how fast the motor should spin. Dr Stephen Block, of Princeton University, does this in a commentary in *Nature*, and comes up with a speed of 20 revolutions per second, five times faster than the Japanese team observed. The difference, he believes, is almost certainly accounted for by the drag caused by the muscle filament, which had to be attached to the axle to prove it was going round.

"What is stunning is that it is the very first time rotation has been demonstrated in an enzyme," says Dr Paul Boyer, an enzyme specialist at the University of California at Los Angeles, who first proposed that ATP synthase worked this way in the 1970s. "A picture is worth a thousand words; detecting the spinning visually is a very convincing demonstration."

Evolution theory focuses on eyes



EYES have always been a challenge to evolutionists. It is difficult to work out how they evolved — although Richard Dawkins made a valiant effort in his book *Climbing Mount Improbable* — and the forms of eyes differ so radically in different creatures that it appears that the eye must have evolved not once, but many times.

That merely compounds the mystery.

This is not so, as some new results suggest. Dr Stanislav Tomarek, of the US National Eye Institute in Bethesda, Maryland, and Dr Walter Gehring, of the University of Basle, transferred the gene responsible for forming the eye in squid into fruit flies.

They report in *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* that the flies developed eyes in places where their wings, legs and antennae normally grow.

The fact that a gene from a mollusc, whose evolution diverged from other animals 500-600 million years ago, can produce eyes in fruit flies suggests strongly that the eye evolved only once, and that all the forms of eyes seen in different species are merely elaborations on a basic theme.

Program that puts you in the fast lane



THE flow of traffic on a motorway is subject to many unexpected variations, as every driver knows. Now a computer program developed by a physicist from AEA Technology at Harwell in Oxfordshire, Dr Laurence Howe, can be used to explore these changes safely.

Dr Howe's model, which is to be demonstrated at the Institute of Physics annual congress in Leeds later this month, categorises drivers as timid, ideal, normal, impatient, or aggressive. It also categorises the range of vehicles on the road, from heavy lorries to fast cars, by features such as their speed, mass, length, and braking power.

The system, called Vedens, can model up to six lanes of traffic moving in the same direction, randomly selecting each vehicle and driver in the proportions found on real roads.

It is then possible to model situations such as lane closures and see what happens to the flow. He has already found that extra lanes are valuable when traffic is joining the motorway, but offer few benefits at an exit slip-road if more than about a fifth of the traffic wants to turn off.

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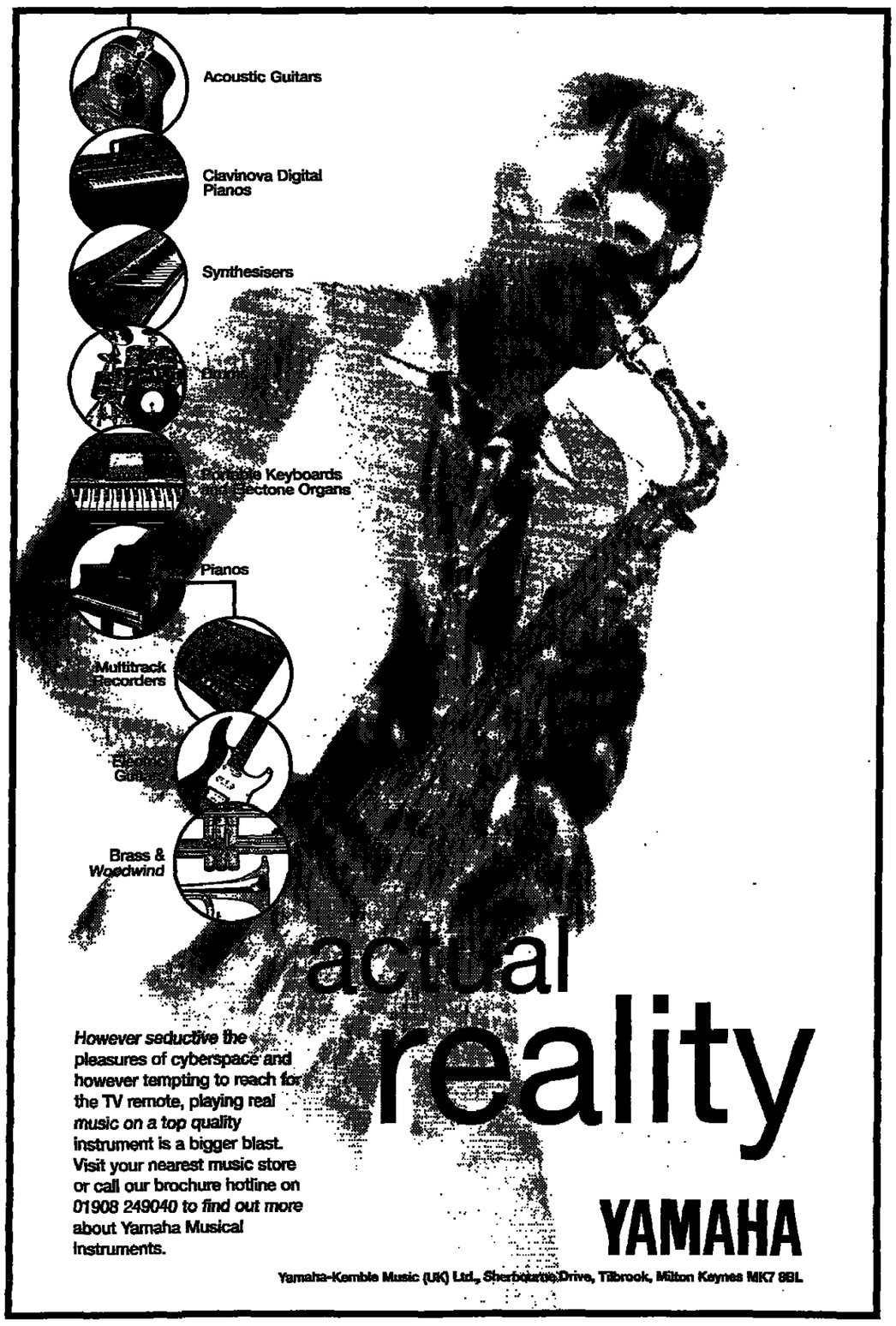
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Mightier than the computer

In a hi-tech age, **Joseph Connolly** maintains a firm grip on his pen

This article was written by hand, with a green Ball Pentel pen, on three, lined foolscap sheets of paper in a red ringbound Silvine notebook, as was every piece I have ever written. My new novel, *Stuff*, was written in exactly the same way (all 110,000 words of it), as were its two predecessors. I am therefore either the very last dinosaur to roam the earth, or else poised at the very cutting edge of what may be termed the "new nostalgia". In America not only are mechanical typewriters staging a dramatic comeback, but work is in hand in some San Francisco design company to produce a $5,000 computer that mimics not only the typefaces of the old Olivettis and Remingtons but also the quirky light and shade (depending on the strength in one's wrists) and all the wonky imperfections. If this catches on it is only a matter of a very short time before pen and ink sweep back triumphantly in all their blotchy splendour — and there I'll be, cool and at the forefront.

It is true that I drive people crazy with my total disregard for all things electronic. People get very vexed that they can't fax me, and have to address an envelope instead; I'm currently redrafting a screenplay and the production company is tearing out its hair at the sight of my Cowgummed inserts.

I used to think I was just old enough to get away with all this, but now I'm not so sure: how long can I last? *The Times* still operates this marvellous system where I can read my stuff over the phone to copy-takers who are sometimes so brilliantly speedy that it's difficult to keep up with them, and at other times... well, I have to watch what I write here, because it's got to be read over the phone to a copytaker.

When I have finished writing a novel (generally about 450 longhand foolscap pages) it is such a scrawled out, rejigged, plastered mess that no one but I could read it (sometimes with difficulty), so it is I who must type it out. Any chance, asks my publishers, Faber and Faber, of having it on disk? None. I say — I am a writer, I am not in the record business.

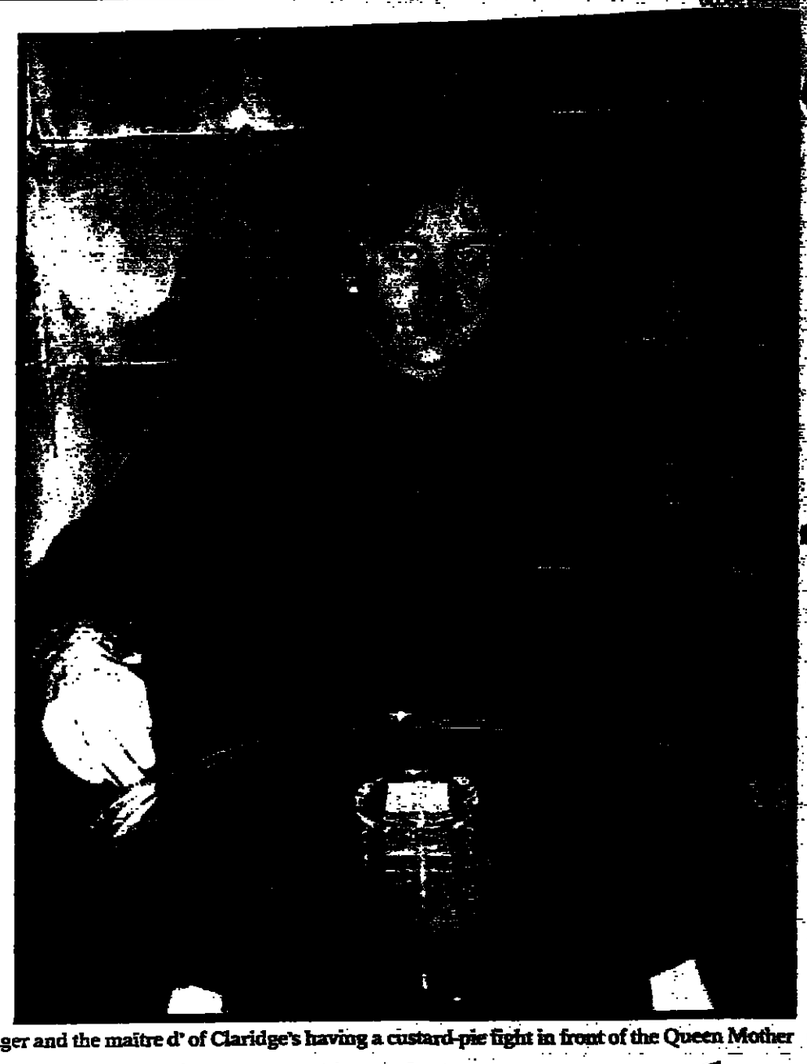
My son Charles is 13 this week and I have agreed to buy him his very first computer (all his friends, he tells me, have owned at least two since soon after their conception). Once one has assimilated the awful truth that it is going to set one back at least a grand, one begins to have a glance at just what one might get for one's money. Here it is: "Pentium Intel HX Chipset Motherboard (FX for PROS)". OK, fairly exciting so far — never in my life has any member of my family come even close to owning a Chipset Motherboard — but you also get a Hard Drive (fast EIDE mode 4, if you want the whole truth) as well as — my favourite — 256Kb Pipeline Burst Cache (which is, should you be worried, upgradable). That there are windows hardly needs to be said. Oh — and you can get a printer with Epson Microdot, which sounds a bit like an asylum. (Bubblejet sounds a lot more fun, but you probably mustn't swallow it.)

Now look — all this either makes perfect sense to you, or else you need the solace of a darkened room in which to wonder just who hijacked the OED. It's just like a solicitor's letter, isn't it? You know what each word means, but how in blue blazes to make *sense* of it all? Of course, it could be just *me* (I'm still flummoxed by golfballs and daisy wheels, but at least they suggest a fun day out). I'd love an explanation of it all; could someone, maybe, write it down for me?

● Stuff *Faber and Faber £14.99 (not available on disk).*

COLORIFIC





The rumpus between Ian Schrager, left, and Brian McNally has been likened to the manager and the maître d' of Claridge's having a custard-pie fight in front of the Queen Mother

Bun fight in New York

A highly public row between two restaurateurs is giving New Yorkers their best laugh in ages. **Quentin Letts** reports

At sleek "44", the minimalist dining room of New York's trendy Royalton Hotel, where the smart set grazes on green leaves at lunchtime and you can almost bite into the power, there has has just been the most embarrassing and — well — hilarious row.

It involves Brian McNally, Manhattan's best-loved Cockney, and it has set Midtown aflutter. McNally, a puckish restaurateur, has run "44" since 1991. He rents the space from the Royalton's cool-nosed proprietor Ian Schrager, America's über-hotelier, as he would perhaps call himself, who will shortly open four hotels in London.

With his English wit and his crumpled charm, McNally has made ill-lit "44" the best networking venue in the New World. Chic restaurateurs these days have pop star status and the celebrities who frequent "44" — such as Calvin Klein, Kevin Costner, John Kennedy, Madonna and Anna Wintour — regard McNally as one of their own. Many of them think similarly highly of Schrager, who made his name in the Seventies when he and the late, louche Steve Rubell ran the nightclub Studio 54.

Bianca Jagger rode her white charger there, Salvador Dali twiddled his tash and the place became a byword for Bacchanalian revels. Schrager and Rubell did a year in prison after the financial collapse of Studio 54, but somehow that only added to their allure.

Given the close business arrangement between the two men, onlookers suspected that Brian McNally and Ian Schrager must be friends. They are, or rather, they were ... until the start of this month, when Schrager unaccountably launched a vitriolic attack. Interviewed in *New York* magazine, Schrager accused his British associate of a long list of failings: a lack of character, of being "fake", a failure, down at heel, "inept". It was an extraordinary performance, even by the pot-hurling standards of the restaurant trade.

The rumpus has now turned nastier. Speaking properly for the first time about Schrager's attack, McNally scratched his tousled, greyish hair and let loose a torrent. From Britain it may be difficult to gauge just how big a row this is, but imagine the general manager and the maître d' of Claridge's having a custard-pie fight in that fine hotel's dining-room in the middle of a busy lunchtime, bang in front of Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother, and you just about have it.

"Ian gets so uptight," said McNally. "It is ludicrous. We have known each other for 20 years. He just came a little unhinged, a bit hysterical. Mind you, that is often not far below the surface. He has been so stupid, and unprofessional. He has had a nervous breakdown in public and it just doesn't look good. Since that article appeared I have had calls from EVERYONE, even from friends of Ian who have said they are not going to be his friend any more. Even Calvin Klein, who was quoted as attacking me. He rang up to say how embarrassed he was. He's a very nice man, Calvin, you know. Said he was mortified by what Ian had said. Mortified."

The row began after Schrager dumped McNally from a couple of projects that they had been thinking of doing together. McNally, in something of a masterstroke, then infuriated Schrager by announcing that he and one of Schrager's other New York associates, Philip Pilevsky, were going to start a hotel in newly fashionable Miami. Their place, which will open next year, is a block and a half down the beach from Schrager's highly successful Delano Hotel. "Ian is worried about the competition," said McNally. "He knows we're going to do a good job and he is not generous in spirit."

McNally, 46, has come a long way since his schooldays at a grammar school in London's Mile End. In the Sixties and early Seventies, after a brief stint in the City, he hit the hippy trail, sowed his oats in free-love Denmark, and eventually washed up in the New York of 1977, dressed in flared trousers and a tie-dyed T-shirt. His brother Keith, who is still in the restaurant trade in New York, was then running the hot venue of the time, One Fifth Avenue. Young Brian became the barman.

The Eighties were good to him. He opened some of the busiest and most celebrated New York restaurants of the decade, including Odeon, the Canal Bar and Indochine, until disaster struck with a place called 150 Wooster. "It was the coolest restaurant in the world — for about a minute and a half," he recalled with a wry laugh. It cost him hundreds of thousands of dollars and put him out of action for "a year in the wilderness". During that time he learnt the realities of New York business life. When you're down, few bother to help you.

> You can expect to see Hollywood producers and political hitters

He accepted "44" at the urging of Anna Wintour, the British-born Editor of American *Vogue*. The Royalton, which like Schrager's other hotels is over-styled, uncomfortable, but popular with the easily led, was doing all right at the time. Its restaurant, however, was dreadful: bad service, uninteresting food, worse people. McNally went into overdrive, called up all his old friends, many of whom, during his year of exile, had risen high in the media, movies, music and similar fields. Slowly the place picked up, and he has now turned an annual take of $3 million into something approaching $7.5 million. Not bad for a place with only 30 tables.

> He opened the most celebrated restaurants in New York

Go there any lunchtime today and you can expect to see Hollywood producers, publishing moguls and political hitters. Harry Evans will be lunching an author at one table, Norman Mailer will be sucking on a fish bone at another. When Condé Nast's boss Si Newhouse enters, the room turns as one to see his guest. "Here comes his Royal Si-ghness," people whisper. Not that Schrager is now seen very often in his own hotel. "He's hardly been in since his outburst," said McNally. "He must be embarrassed."

Schrager picked Brian McNally to run "44" because he thought that the amusing Brit had the makings of a second Steve Rubell — his late partner from Studio 54 (although McNally, let us emphasise is straight, sexually and in business). "Brian was really down on his luck at the time," Schrager told *New York* magazine. "I gave him a break. He blew it." Schrager has now taken up with a new associate, the strikingly handsome Rande Gerber, who is sometimes linked romantically to Cindy Crawford.

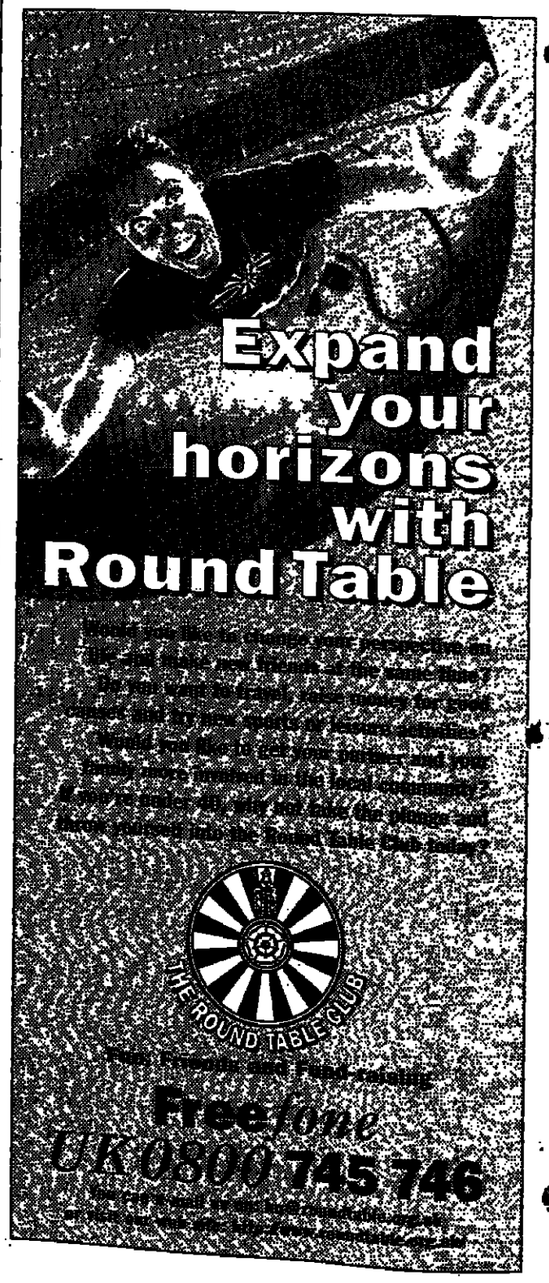
Ask Schrager today if McNally is comparable to Rubell and he will shriek that he is not. McNally should be relieved. For, as that old barfly Anthony Haden-Guest recalls in his forthcoming book *The Last Party*, Studio 54 crashed after disclosures that Rubell attracted the hip crowd by giving them money and drugs. "When Rubell and Schrager appeared in front of the US District Judge Richard Owen for sentencing on January 18, 1980," writes Haden-Guest, "the judge blitzed them for their 'tremendous arrogance'."

When Schrager reached prison, one of his jobs was to cut two miles of grass beneath a chain-link fence — for which task he was given a pair of scissors. Since his release in January 1981 he has achieved a spectacular return to social and business prominence, and he now has several millions in the bank. But did prison sour him?

Schrager laughs at McNally, with that odd American snobbery, for not being financially independent. "I couldn't give a toss," says McNally. "I have a nicer life than he does." Perhaps he still misses Steve Rubell, or perhaps he simply misreads the irony in McNally's boyish sense of humour. Even though McNally has been in New York so long, his residue of British nonchalance and cheeky iconoclasm seems alien to the Nineties New York business world. If Schrager's London hotels are going to be a success, he may need to learn how to handle Brits.

But all this is probably to take too seriously what remains a thoroughly watchable spat. Like old crones thwacking each other over the head with their brollies, these two are giving New York its best laugh for ages. Long may it continue.





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With mop, bucket and sewing basket, a new generation of women is rediscovering domesticity

The pleasures of housework

You know the feeling. You're sitting upstairs, at your desk (because you work at home), staring at your computer screen, drooping over your typewriter, attempting to attend to MailMerge or PhotoShop, or simply trying to construct a decent sentence.

It is that long, long hour before lunch — too early to eat, can't have another cup of coffee *already*, and you're probably trying to give up smoking. The sentence won't construct, the screen blurs before your eyes ... and then you hear it.

It is a siren song, threading its way up the stairs from the kitchen, perhaps, or the downstairs loo, or from the skirting boards by the front door. *Clean me*, says the song, like the instruction on Alice's bottle. *Clean me*. If everything were *clean* you could concentrate, you could be secure in the knowledge that all was bright and gleaming, a very mirror of the mind you wish you had.

Anyway, it's something to do. It's better than this sitting around. And when you have finished, when there is dust in your hair and Jif under your fingernails and the skirting boards are no longer neglected and the scummy ring around the bath has vanished, you have, to your delight, *accomplished something*.

> All would be chaos — and then I would go to work

I'm sure I'm not the only one who feels this way about housework. Certainly not, if I go by the smiling faces that gleam out from *Every Home Should Have One*, by Jan Boxhall, which is is published to celebrate the 75th anniversary of *Good Housekeeping* magazine. Chief among its delights is the advertising, reproduced from down the decades, that promise "Present pleasure and future freedom" (the young mistress of the house, in her becoming flapper-style dress, caresses her Electrolux vacuum-cleaner while Dad and Son — clearly the givers of this splendid gift — peer mischievously from behind the curtains) and that there will be "Time for the pictures on wash-day!".

After the end of the First World War, when young working-class women discovered alternatives to going "into service", bewildered middle-class housewives had to learn how to run a servantless house with the help of new appliances from toasters, to Hoovers, to dishwashers.

Of course, there are still plenty of people who absolutely detest the idea of having to look after themselves. Rumours that the glamorous Kennedy-Bessette marriage was on the rocks were accompanied by tales that they were rowing over who did the washing-up; the Austrian Government recently considered drawing up "rules of engagement" for couples before they married, in order to ensure that husbands did their fair share and therefore decrease — or so it was hoped — the rate of divorce.

Last year a woman in Oregon decided she'd had enough and devised a self-cleaning house. "You open a valve, punch a button and it washes your ceilings, walls, floors, windows, curtains, your furniture, your dirty dishes and your dirty clothes. And then it dries them." Rather like, one imagines, those loos in Leicester Square.

But what about those of us who — hush! hush! whisper who dares! — are actually fond of our mops and brooms?

When I was at college, I earned some extra money cleaning, a couple of mornings a week. I loved it. The homes of university lecturers, I suppose, are not renowned for tidiness; when I arrived, all would be chaos, streaks of babyfood on kitchen cabinets, rumpled sheets and streaky windows. When I left there was order and calm. My task had been straightforward, vigorous, and I always knew I had done a good job. And I got to shout at the curmudgeons on *Call Nick Ross*. Life has rarely been so straightforward again.

Now that I don't work at home, someone cleans it for me, and my own cleaning is mostly confined to tidying my desk at the office. There is no longer time to consult *The Book of Hints and Wrinkles for the Home* or *Household Hints and Handy Tips*, treasured volumes on my shelves.

Of course, even I think housework can be a chore, and heave a dejected sigh when I read that a recent British *Social Attitudes Survey* revealed that mothers spend nearly 18 hours a week more than fathers on household tasks. There are a lot of Electrolux-buying men in *Good Housekeeping*'s history, but not a lot of them standing by the stove and smiling.

"How many knobs do you really need?" asks a washing-machine ad from this decade, and gives us, as an image of the male in the home, Michelangelo's *David* with a modest garland of fig leaves. Change in the home? Yes, of course. One in five women worked outside the home in the 1950s; by the 1980s it was one in two, and *Good Housekeeping* no longer has to explain the miracle of the electric toaster.



DES JENSON

Erica Wagner: life, she says, is rarely ever so straightforward as when you are wielding a broom

But some things seem disconcertingly consistent across the years. Pat Roberts Cairns, the Editor of *Good Housekeeping*, admits that the "New Man" is a novelty, nationwide. "But is that because of us? A lot of working women striving for perfection tend to think we can do everything; but if we were willing to delegate we could probably do less."

And what we think we can do well, we often like to do: Demos's survey, *Tomorrow's Women*, released recently, reports a turn away from an entirely career-orientated life: "If superwoman provided a dominant image of womanhood in the 1980s, a more balanced model may be taking over in the late 1990s."

But this isn't about social issues. This is about the simple pleasure of elbow grease. So if you'll excuse me, I'm going to leave early and clean the fridge.

● Every Home Should Have One, *by Jan Boxhall, is published by Ebury Press on March 6. £16.99.*

ERICA WAGNER

Margaret Thatcher started it: all those staged photographs of her scrubbing the kitchen, painting walls and pushing a vacuum cleaner around No 10 were an inspiration for a generation of working women. If the warrior woman herself could find time to do a spot of housework amid the sound and fury of public life, then so could they.

Seventy-five years have passed since *Good Housekeeping* was launched with the declaration that: "There should be no drudgery in the house. There must be time to think, to read, to enjoy life." Admirable sentiments, but in these manic, hyperactive days wildly unrealistic, too.

Good Housekeeping estimates that the typical working woman spends 25 hours a week on housework. Paid domestic labour may be a big growth industry in two-earner households, but just as many women are choosing to be their own housekeepers.

Malandra Burrows, an actress and singer who works on the ITV soap *Emmerdale*, says: "Like most modern women I have a busy, hectic schedule. In some weeks we have to film as many as five episodes of *Emmerdale* — which leaves very little time for anything else. And yet, the acting world can be so superficial and insecure that I like to feel rooted in domesticity. Having my own home [she lives alone in a large five-bedroom detached house in Leeds] and doing my own housework is a link to a way of life that my grandmother would have recognised.

> Doing the chores satisfies a longing in our psyche

"As well as being dull and boring, housework is trivial, relaxing and extremely therapeutic. I like it. I think there is a longing in the psyche of many actors to be ordinary — and doing the daily chores is one way of achieving that."

Val Tyler, of the Industrial Society, says that the cost of domestic help can be prohibitively expensive, especially as most working women would rather pay for a nanny than a housekeeper. A fully-trained nanny can cost as much as £300 a week. Which doesn't leave much for anything else.

"There is no doubt that more and more working women are choosing not to employ cleaners," she says. "At first, I think the depression of the early 1990s had something to do with this — many families couldn't afford that additional expense.

"But what we are seeing now is a sociological change, one that reflects the change in family life, and the increasing domestication of men. [A recent study calculates that male partners of working women do an average of 13 hours of housework a week.]

"Then, of course, there is a deeper, what I call biological, drive: perverse though it may sound, many women enjoy housework. It's in their hormones."

Alison Halstead, 25, is another young woman who does her own housework. She lives with her boyfriend, the press photographer Stefan Rousseau, in a spacious flat in Wanstead, east London, and works a 50-hour week at Talk Radio. She used to spend £80 a month on a cleaner but felt guilty about it, not because she could not afford the outlay but because she felt that what she was doing was an abdication of responsibility — *her* responsibility as a woman.

"My mother never had a cleaner, even though we had quite a large house and a lot of land. She ran her own catering business, so was always on the go. When I first started work I couldn't cope: I had to have a cleaner. But once I'd gone through my sixth one in six months, I realised that something was wrong. And that something was that I was actually *missing* housework. In fact, on the evenings before the mornings that my home-help arrived, I would actually spend time tidying up my flat so that it was clean for the cleaner."

Alison's boyfriend has completely remodelled their flat since the couple moved in. "He is extremely handy and has put so much time into the house that I want to contribute something too. At least, that's what I tell him. I enjoy it really."

Lilly Shears, 55, who runs her own alternative health business in Hertfordshire, has also experimented with cleaners without success. "The problem was that my helpers never did the cleaning as I wanted. What most annoyed me was their tendency to rearrange the ornaments without actually dusting beneath them. In the end, I decided that if you want a job done properly you should do it yourself. There is nothing wrong with finding self-fulfilment in self-sufficiency."

So, 75 years after hearing the clarion call of liberation, women are once again picking up their buckets and mops — only this time it appears to be their choice.

JASON COWLEY

A rising hum of sewing bees as the Singers are dusted off

HOME SEWING — good, old-fashioned, thumb-pricking, cotton-twiddling sewing — is making a comeback in the United States. A growing army of American women are dusting down their Singer sewing machines and reacquainting themselves with those neglected needlework skills they learnt at school.

After 20 years as a top model, Lauren Hutton must own several closets full of designer clothes. Yet she chooses to make many of her dresses by hand, and she is not alone.

The actress Daphne Maxwell Reid, best known to British teenagers as Aunt Vivian in the television series *The Fresh Prince of Bel Air*, is typical of the new home-sewer. At the moment she is making a blue and black suit in raw Thai silk, from a McCall pattern. She plans to wear it when she attends an award banquet in Los Angeles.

> Saving money is no longer the primary motive

Why does she sew when she could easily afford an original Vera Wang? "I really don't like to pay too much when I know what the real value of a dress should be," she explained. "I know the cost of the fabric, and the time it takes to make a garment. I can't justify that sort of overspending. Also I'm what you'd call buxom, which means I can buy a size 12 pattern and modify the bust to a size 14. And the clothes in the stores are never in the colours that I like — red, canary yellow or emerald green. That year when everything in the stores was either olive green or beige. I just didn't shop."

Years of blue-jeans dressing and the 1980s mania for flaunting labels made home sewers an endangered species. But when the recession hit, American women became canny about their pennies, and immersed themselves in all manner of DIY projects. Martha Stewart, in her television programme, showed her sisters how to run up a frock with one hand and repaint an old lampshade with the other. Feminists wrote about the fashion for home projects as an example of women regaining pride in their grandmothers' lost skills. Haberdashers reported brisk business again.

Louis Morris, the chief executive of Simplicity Patterns, says this is a long-term trend. "Business is excellent. The industry is growing at about 3 to 5 per cent a year, and it's going to pick up even more."

More than $5 billion was spent on sewing in 1992, up 21.4 per cent from 1987. A third of the country's adult female population now sews.

Why, with the recession over, are young women turning to the pattern books? Saving money, it seems, is no longer the primary reason. It came only third in a survey conducted by the American Home Sewing and Craft Association (AHS).

"First was the sense of accomplishment women gain from making something themselves, and second they say it relaxes them," said Beth Mauro, of the AHS. "The whole idea of sewing to save money is out of date.

"Women are now looking to create heirloom quality items. The new sewers are professional women. They're buying homes, having children, and they want to sew for their children. These are the new faces in sewing classes across the country."

Sewing classes, like the old quilting bees, also provide an environment where women can get together and gossip about their families and careers.

Sewing chat groups have sprung up on the Internet, so women can share information. In effect, the Net has created an international sewing bee.

It helps, too, that designers have smartened up their act. Through *Vogue Patterns*, women can now buy the latest dress in pattern form, six months after it appears on the catwalk — about the same time it reaches the shops.

It is mainly women who sew. But children are leading the way to sexual equality. Pat Headen, who teaches evening classes in Hartsdale, New York, says sewing in schools took a back seat in the 1970s and 1980s, when educators became excited about computer science. Only now are they beginning to realise their mistake. "Sewing is for survival. It's like cooking. Yes, it would be nice to eat out every night. But you need to know how to make a sandwich."

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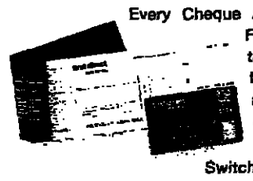
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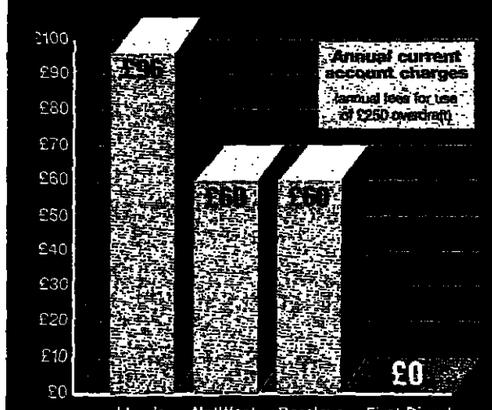
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ARTS THE WEEK AHEAD



MUSIC

Russian maestro of the moment, Valery Gergiev, conducts the Rotterdam Phil at the Barbican

CONCERT: Tonight
REVIEW: Wednesday



POP

Gladys Knight helps us make it through a night of her greatest hits at the Albert Hall

GIG: Tomorrow
REVIEW: Thursday



DANCE

Jump to it: Irek Mukhamedov trips the light fantastic in *La Bayadère* at Covent Garden

OPENS: Wednesday
REVIEW: Next week



REVUE

Sheila Hancock shares a sketch or two with Dawn French in *Then Again* at the Lyric Hammersmith

OPENS: Thursday
REVIEW: Saturday

How many Oscars equal one blockbuster?

The Oscars could be described as the effective campaign of a brilliantly mercantile cabal to give their industry hours and acres of free publicity around the world. Yet somehow this marketing manoeuvre has become a curiously respected Honours List. Richard Burton, nominated six times and never a winner, remarked that however much he and others affected to and did indeed despise the Oscars, come the moment they longed to win — and come the obituary it was Oscar who was bound to put in an appearance in the first paragraph.

Oscars are also a way in which we, over here, while knowing ourselves to be Davids in the land of film, pitch ourselves boldly against the big Californian Goliaths, and take exceptional pride when we hit the mark.

So far, this year, so very good. *The English Patient* — happily titled for us although its producer is not English, and nor are many of its cast, and its fictional protagonist is Hungarian — leads the way with a dozen nominations, and we all hope to share in its glitzy glory. Mike Leigh's very, very English *Secrets and Lies*, which has already won the Palme d'Or at Cannes, has picked up five nominations. Kenneth Branagh and other Hamleteers are in the pool, as are *Emma* and *Trainspotting*. We also have some purchase on *James and the Giant Peach* and on *The Crucible*.

By any standard "our boys have done good", and many of us will be in front of the television set early tomorrow morning with rattles at the ready as the show slides down smooth as an oyster.

Close analysis of the nominations list by trade magazines reveals facts which have at least a social value. Of the five nominated Best Actors, four are either "wheelchair-bound" (Woody Harrelson), severely burnt (Ralph Fiennes), severely troubled (Geoffrey Rush), or mentally challenged (Billy Bob Thornton). That leaves Tom Cruise.

From the same source, *Variety*, I learnt that "last year only one of the 106 nominees was black. This year there are two in the acting races alone." I like "races". No irony intended, I presume.

But although we seem set to win the baubles, the box office remains invincibly American. *Shine*, for instance, has seven nominations and has taken $16 million at the American box office. *Twister*, with two nominations, has taken $242 million. Unlikely to win much, *Independence Day* has grossed $481 million worldwide so far. Likely to be in there with a big haul, *The English Patient* — $42 million so far.

It is always tempting on such occasions to generalise mightily, and I see no reason to resist. Could it be that a wedge is now being driven in what is being perceived as intelligent, worthwhile and "quality", and what is seen as box-office fodder, and could it be that the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences is sending out a strong signal to its own countrymen that, good as the sound of cascading millions at the box office may be, it is not good enough? It is possible, although some might think it a miracle.



Much more likely is that in a sprawling year with Hollywood in a tired mood it relied on what it could do supremely well — sell globally. The trick or catch is that such films must be pitched at an unrelentingly low level. Spectacle is a useful word here, because no one wants to begrudge a Spectacle. Who would dare to say they oppose fireworks, even though fireworks and nothing but fireworks and no development from fireworks is probably as bad for the brain as *foie gras* and nothing but *foie gras* is for the liver?

There is no doubt that Hollywood's smartest operators have long opened up and dominated a world market which is now exploited through the deliberate and cynical use of excessive violence, moral ambiguity, visceral camera work and pre-adolescent plotting and dialogue.

This stripped-down model of the American Dream from a land capable of nightmares of complication is carried across the globe and popped into the open mouths of willing chicks worldwide, hungry as they have been throughout the century for the celluloid visions of America.

Perhaps these Oscar nominations today are acting as a brake, or a warning finger pointing to the greater variety which can be delivered in an *English Patient* or a *Secrets and Lies*. That is what we, the British, would like to read into it, and I think many more — especially in America — would join in. But our hope also contains some envy that we cannot as yet cut the mustard at the Big Bang box office. Still, this year, sticking to our last looks like putting us first.

If you saw *Cosi fan tutti* on television recently you would have seen a credit for Armani for the clothes. The credit in the programme at the Royal Opera House was as big as that for Mozart. If Armani was paid for these costumes, may we ask why?

I am not a fan of the Italian style, but what I saw on stage seemed to be very much what you see in shop windows or on the backs of fashionable folk in fashionable magazines. *Cosi* gave Armani the most tremendous advertisement.

In my view, rather than being paid for the clothes, Signor Armani should have paid the Royal Opera House for allowing him to dress such a vivid production.

Magnificently mysterious

CONCERT

THERE must be times when even the most devoted admirer would wish that Debussy had not got involved with Gabriele d'Annunzio and *Le Martyre de Saint Sébastien*. If the poet had written the text in his own language rather than his oddly synthetic French, and if he had got a nice Italian composer to collaborate with him on it, Debussy would have been free to do something else.

It is true that Debussy believed in what he was doing and that the score of *Le Martyre* does contain much inspired music. But in its original full-scale theatrical form, which took more than four hours to perform at the Châtelet in 1911, it was a disaster. When reduced to about sixty minutes of music and narration, which is the way it is done these days, it is still unwieldy in construction and no less heavily flawed by its crazy text. Even so, it has to be heard and in conducting its first performance at a Hallé concert in Manchester — only a few days after a rare presentation in London, incidentally — **Kent Nagano** registered a considerable, even historical, achievement.

It could have been better cast, particularly in the narrator role of Sébastian himself, which was spoken by Lahcen Kebdi as though he didn't really understand it. But who does? And anyway — alongside very competent performances from Emma Selway and Jane Irwin as the martyred Christian twins and Sibylle Ehlert as everything else — there was some well-prepared, convincingly French-sounding singing from the Hallé Choir and some exquisitely sensitive playing from an evidently enchanted orchestra.

The most convincing aspect of Olivier Charlier's interpretation of Beethoven's Violin Concerto was his treatment of the cadenzas. If there is something slightly suspect about a Beethoven performance which is more secure, more purposeful and more stylish in passages which are not by Beethoven — they must be the best thing Kreisler ever wrote — it is undeniably useful for a soloist to be able to assert his authority where he is most exposed. Certainly, the audience in the Bridgewater Hall was far from unhappy with the situation.

GERALD LARNER

Versatile veteran

POP

HE MAY look as if he could scare away crows for a living, but **Jimmy Nail** has a strong claim to the title of Britain's most fully rounded entertainer. From scripting to songwriting, producing to performing, and as an actor on both the small and the silver screens, his accomplishments of the past decade and a half seem limitless.

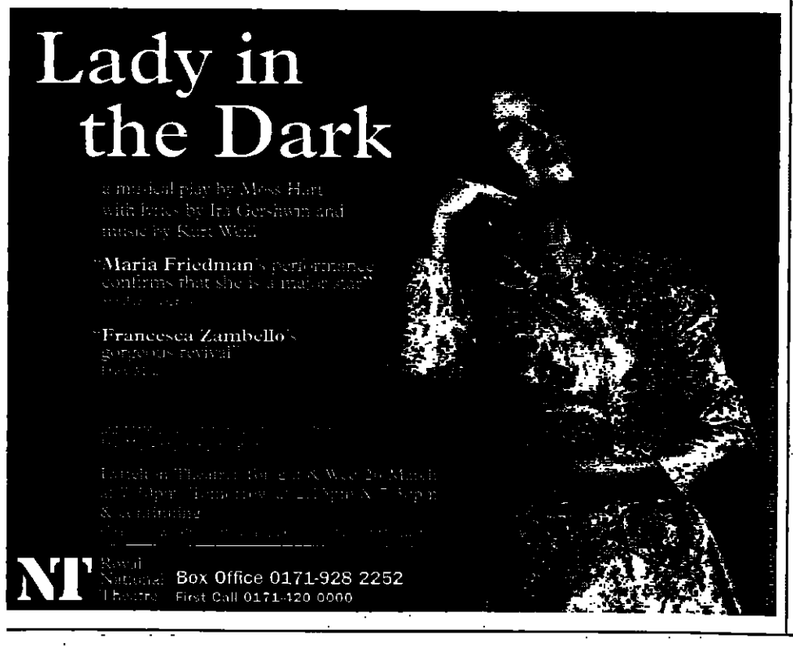
Prominent among those achievements is for such a familiar television face to be taken seriously in the pop world. "It's Saturday night, let's rock!" he told a somewhat undersubscribed Wembley Arena, and during a generous two-hour show with a fine seven-piece band, provided a typically versatile and good-humoured spectacle.

Nail's second album of songs from his *Crocodile Shoes* TV project is a modest success compared with the first, million-selling volume from 1994. He opened here with *Country Boy*, the theme tune of the second series, easily scaling the vocal peaks of the recorded version.

He addressed his audience with a mixture of thespian confidence and working men's club bravado, and gradually coaxed some deserved response from a slow crowd with a three-tiered set. The first also included *Crocodile Shoes* and two of the elegant songs donated to him for the series by Prefab Sprout's Paddy McAloon, *Cowboy Dreams* and *Blue Roses*.

In part two, he and the band were stage-front and acoustic, the toothsome bill of fare including Family's *My Friend the Sun* and *On This Night of a Thousand Stars*, the audition piece Nail performed to land his role in Alan Parker's film of *Evita*. Electric again for the final section, he gave us a heartfelt *Big River*, his song about his Tyneside childhood, an opulent *Love Don't Live Here Anymore* and a spirited *Ain't No Doubt*. A thoroughly likeable weekend diversion.

PAUL SEXTON



VISUAL ART: **John Russell Taylor** finds much to enjoy in the work of an underrated Victorian



Alma-Tadema's *The Roses of Heliogabalus*. The impression is of almost dignified decadence, yet the subjects are about to be choked by petals

The DeMille of the canvas

When we read that a painter is a master of light, we normally imagine something in the Impressionist line, where solid form is dissolved in light and the illusion of light playing over surfaces is at once the means and the end of art. Sir Lawrence Alma-Tadema would never qualify according to such presuppositions. Yet the predominant impression made by his works, collected in the definitive exhibition just arrived at the Walker Art Gallery, Liverpool, from the Van Gogh Museum in Amsterdam, is the painter's surpassing skill in moving light around his pictures, sculpting form, evoking texture and imbuing the whole with a magical atmosphere.

According to received wisdom, he is a sort of "Madame Tussaud of painting". But the other thing he has been called, "the DeMille of painting", is much nearer the mark — not in the derogatory sense that is usually intended, but in the cinematic quality of his images. Alma-Tadema was certainly much influenced by, and to an extent involved with, the sort of late-Victorian spectacular theatre that led to early cinema. But his brilliance in the disposition of lighting, especially indirect lighting and lighting from unexpected angles, marks him out even in a generation of virtuosi.

He possibly owed his enormous contemporary reputation to an unconscious awareness in his public that he was essentially garbing Victorian situations in fancy dress, so that his classical scenes appeared at once titillatingly exotic and comfortingly familiar. At the beginning of his career, in the 1850s and 1860s, he was quite content to paint the same sort of domestic and social scenes in a contemporary setting, or in the more fashionable Gothic style.

Be that as it may, Alma-Tadema rapidly threw off the influence of early Dutch genre painting natural to his Dutch origins and training. By the time he moved to England in 1870, he was completely settled in his fantasy world of Mediterranean sunshine and shadow, flowing classical drapery and elegant, understated eroticism which hardly ever transgressed the bounds of Victorian good taste.

That is not to say that his subjects were always as nice as might have been hoped: *The Roses of Heliogabalus*, for instance, depicts the moment when the emperor's guests are about to be asphyxiated in earnest by the ton of rose petals showered on them as they revel. But the most one would be aware of without prior briefing is that something decorative and presumably decadent is happening, to the delight of all present.

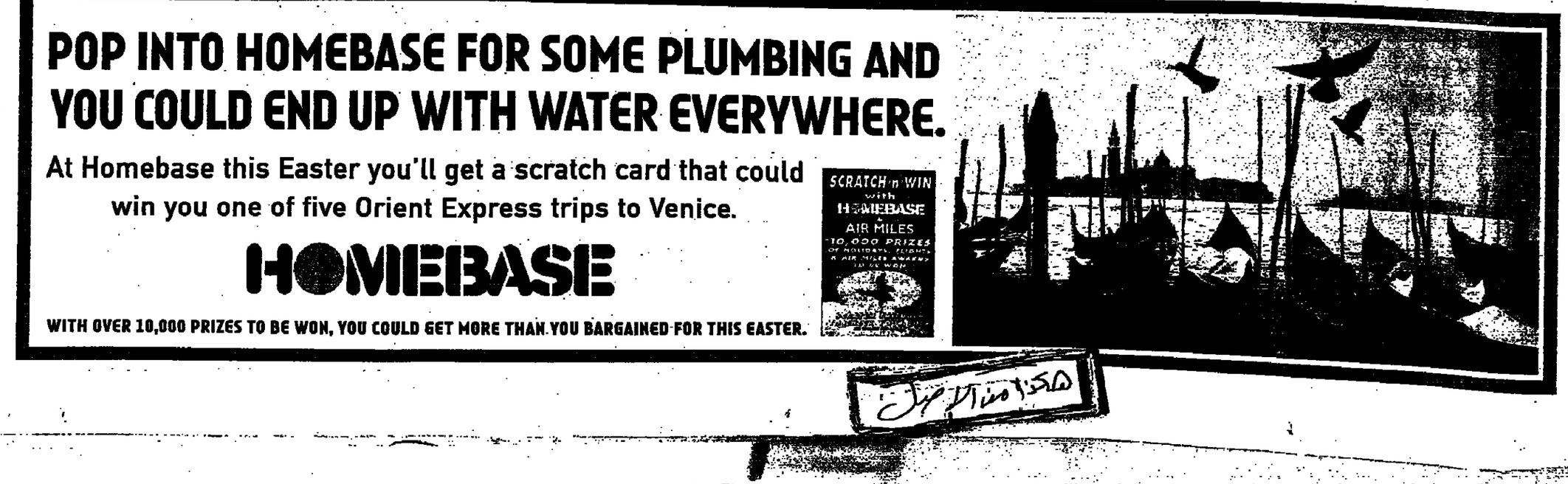
But there can be little doubting the unorthodox spirit of a painter who would essay such a subject in the first place. Over and over, the suspicion is irresistible that Alma-Tadema was trusting to a parade of archaeological accuracy to ward off criticism of the sometimes flagrant erotic content. It is not for nothing that the reclining nude with a strategically placed feather fan in *Tepidarium* of 1881 has, on at least three occasions, appeared as the jacket illustration for books about Victorian pornography.

Of course Alma-Tadema is by no stretch of the imagination pornographic, but it must be admitted that his pulses seem to run faster than those of the impeccably discreet Lord Leighton, to whose centenary show at the Royal Academy last year this show is a sort of companion-piece. Leighton is perhaps the superior painter, but a certain bloodlessness has a chilling effect far distant from Alma-Tadema's sensuous warmth.

Alma-Tadema, like DeMille, does not mind skirting vulgarity and appears to take positive pleasure in sneaking in forbidden materials under the cover of educational self-righteousness.

This show makes one understand both the enthusiasm of Alma-Tadema's contemporaries and the speed of the reaction against him after his death in 1912. Obviously he seemed irresponsible and chocolate-boxy in a world heading rapidly towards Armageddon. But from the safer distance of another *fin de siècle*, one can comfortably recognise his dazzling brilliance as a draughtsman and the sheer passion for painting which inspired him.

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■ THEATRE

Mad monarch time for Ian Holm as he takes the title role in *King Lear* at the National Theatre

OPENS: Thursday
REVIEW: Saturday



■ FILM

Strictly Bard room: Baz Luhrmann gives a contemporary flavour to *Romeo and Juliet*

OPENS: Friday
REVIEW: Thursday



■ BOOKS

A thousand years from now: Arthur C. Clarke turns the clock forward to *3001*

IN THE SHOPS: Now
REVIEW: Saturday



■ OPERA

Catherine Malfitano goes headhunting as *Salome* comes back to the Royal Opera House

OPENS: Saturday
REVIEW: Monday

ARTS
TUESDAY TO FRIDAY
IN SECTION 2

Battle of the ballerinas

DANCE: **Debra Craine** on the first night of Covent Garden's enjoyable revival of *La Bayadère*

This is a tricky ballet to get right. With its lavishly exotic setting, its grandiose and histrionic gestures, its lustily melodramatic scenario and its hilariously incongruous Viennese melodies, *La Bayadère* can easily be dismissed as a kitsch potboiler. Enjoyable kitsch, yes, as indeed this revival is. But Petipa's 1877 oriental spectacle is more than that. It's the heartbreaking tale of poor Nikiya, the Indian temple dancer — the bayadère — betrayed by her warrior lover and murdered by her royal rival. And her dance at their betrothal festivities is one of profound sadness. Or at *least it should be.*

The problem on Saturday, opening night of the Royal Ballet's revival of Natalia Makarova's production, was one of casting. Covent Garden fielded its two biggest female stars — Sylvie Guillem and Darcey Bussell — in the leading roles. But, as it turned out, they probably should have swapped places.

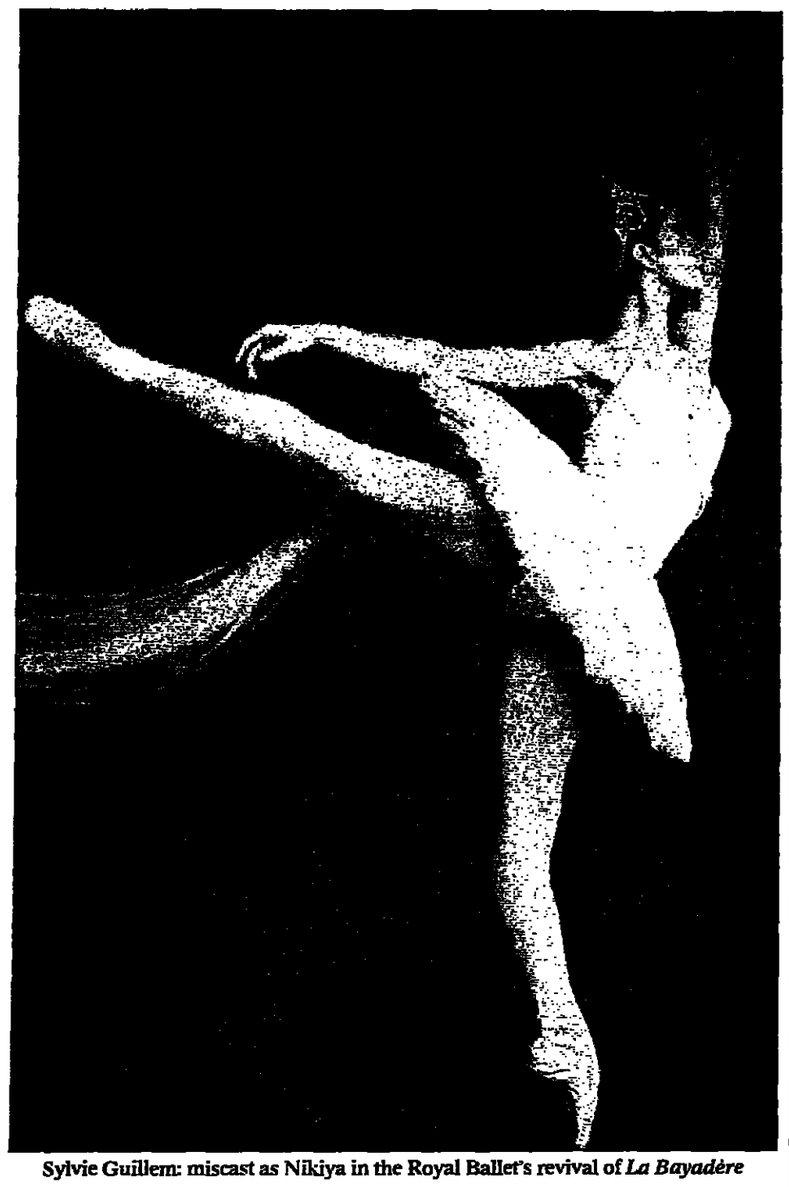
Guillem, for all her extraordinary talents, is not the ballerina to play Nikiya. Although she generated some wonderful moments of spontaneous delight in her first pas de deux with Jonathan Cope's Solor, her own personality as a dancer quickly got in the way. Her style is too ornate and *ostentatious for a humble* bayadère, her demeanour too grand to be reconciled with Nikiya's essential modesty. Indeed, Guillem possesses all the glamour and imperiousness that rightly belong to Gamzatti, the Rajah's daughter who steals Solor away from Nikiya. This was the part taken by Bussell, who was more than happy with the *difficult* choreography, but not quite so effective in a role that requires her to subdue her *natural* benevolence.

Gamzatti and Solor's "do" in the palace garden is one of the highlights of the ballet, the scene in which the flashiest dancing takes place. Divertissements, solos and pas de deux busy a stage already brimful with partygoers. Bussell and Cope shone at the centre of it all, delivering generous and confident phrases of exciting dance.

Guillem's entry into the festivities announced that trouble was on the horizon. But the torment of Solor's betrayal was acted out by Guillem in an introspective solo that failed to ignite the tragedy of Nikiya's situation.

And the subsequent Kingdom of the Shades, which finds the dead Nikiya starring in Solor's guilt-ridden, opium-induced hallucination, produced a surprisingly blank interpretation from Guillem, almost as if she could find no meaning in what is one of the most effulgent scenes in 19th-century Russian ballet.

As the man in the middle of two formidable women, a dashing Cope seemed to be having a whale of a time. His initial scenes with Guillem were driven by a convincing ardour, and he had the decency later to look ashamed of himself for agreeing to marry Gamzatti. The production as a whole looked revivified, the cast having been coached by Makarova, and aside from a brief attack of the shakes, the Shades made a convincing case for themselves.



Sylvie Guillem: miscast as Nikiya in the Royal Ballet's revival of *La Bayadère*

THEATRE: Men behave badly; friends behave sadly

Desperately seeking two closet husbands

Exposition
Arts Theatre

TWO COUPLES in Tom Minter's new play are torn apart by husbands who have bedtime secrets. Instead of staying at home with Laura, frustrated novelist William drinks heavily and stalks public toilets looking for rough trade. It comes along in the form of bleached blond Bobby (Robert Miles), who, when he has finished servicing William for a fee, turns up at barrister James's office to help him put in some unlikely overtime. Considering that James's career is dependent on detail and discretion, the ease with which the rent boy wafts through his office is irritatingly implausible. But then, so is most of this play.

That best friends William and James lead clandestine gay lives outside their marriages, and that neither knows the other's secret, is not wildly improbable, but neither is it wildly convincing. It doesn't help that both wives are little more than wallpaper in Minter's melodrama. Laurel Endelman's Laura and Kate Anthony's Joyce dutifully set up situations where their husbands can behave like churls.

The action is spread thinly over a week. The four first gather with the subtlety of buffalo to watch a French film; we next see them at the theatre, arguing about an issue play during the interval; and then they fall out — at least the men do — at a subsequent dinner party. Behind the squabbles in public and the rifts in private lies the fact that if William and James were honest with themselves, they should have been lovers when they were students, instead of cultivating convenient marriages and crippled lives. This is Minter's "exposition". Revelatory it ain't.

He searches in vain for the wit of Joe Orton and the wisdom of Mike Leigh. He finds neither. The dialogue works fluently on three levels: the banal, the obscure and the over-emotive. Trevor Sellers's James is boorish to his wife Joyce and, for want of any other emotion, sadistic towards the financially desperate William. You are never quite sure whether Niall Ashdown's surly William reels with self-pity or alcohol poisoning. Predictably the conviction of these performances flakes off as rapidly as the interest in Areta Breeze's woeful production. Andrew Hunt's set outperforms the cast, cleverly converting itself from a cinema into what looks aptly like an abattoir.

JAMES CHRISTOPHER

MARILYN KINGWILL



Trevor Sellers plays James the married barrister, Robert Miles is Bobby the rent boy in Tom Minter's *Exposition*

Repulsive state of play

Halloween Night
Dublin

IS IT the mark of a skilful playwright that within a few moments of the opening, one already views the characters of his play with passionate irritation? If so, Declan Hughes is a playwright of notable craft. His latest for Rough Magic, *Halloween Night* (at Andrew's Lane), features a cast of self-obsessed, cowardly, drivel-spouting debauchees, each one of such uncommon repulsiveness that the prospect of spending even a couple of hours in their company is distressing.

True, even the playwright appears to have little sympathy for this gang, but its members are so potently unattractive that it soon becomes almost an impossibility to separate a growing irritation with them from feelings about the play.

The friends have retreated to Ireland's western seaboard for a Halloween reunion. But although someone mentions a loy, this is clearly not J.M. Synge's West. The cottage has been the base for a hipster design company and still features all-black decor, full-size mural of Géricault's *Raft of the Medusa* and a big dark, alcohol pit of a refrigerator. Kathy Strachan's sharp set design adds skulls, bones and other seasonal favours, but even without them the message is clear: this is a fair fit for only *fin de siècle* hobgoblins.

An ensemble cast scratch, claw and yawn their way through the night, editorialising on relationships, post-nationalist politics, the significance of the *Raft of the Medusa*, the end of history and even foodies, who, one jaded urbanite in a tailcoat suggests, are post-religious mystics with a desire to commune with God by eating him. The specific topics may be new, but the scenario is uncannily familiar. If the party's recovering heroin addict movie director, Paddy, were to pitch *Halloween Night* as a feature he might describe it as Ken Russell's *Gothic* meets *The Big Chill*, or more pointedly, *Friends in Hell*.

The pitch might seem to bring things down to a coarse level, but Hughes's writing is never lavish with subtlety. For all his ambitious range of subjects, Hughes's conversations frequently seem to do no more than shrug at the tiresomeness of analyses. Matters are not entirely helped by Lynn Parker's direction, which conjures up plenty of forced debauchery, but little convincing hedonism. Spluttering between bouts of melodramatic Romanticism and dandyish chit-chat, between blow jobs and apocalyptic preachiness, this party (which transfers to London as part of the Donmar's Four Corners Season in April) turns out to be an arduous knees-up.

LUKE CLANCY

A joyous presentation of a Greek tragedy

OPERA

Orfeo ed Euridice
QEH

FLORENCE revived Haydn's *Orfeo*, also known as *L'anima del filosofo*, for Maria Callas in the early 1950s. She sang only two performances before deciding that Eurydice was not for her. Haydn must shoulder some of the blame. *Orfeo* is a clumsily constructed piece as far as the lead soprano is concerned and he might well have tinkered with his only London-commissioned opera had it been performed in his lifetime, which it was not.

Eurydice's death from the bite of a poisonous serpent inspired Haydn to one of his most powerful and dramatic numbers. But that comes midway through Act II and three more acts follow during which Eurydice scarcely gets a look in. Felony is compounded. In Act III Haydn gives the second soprano a brilliant display aria as the Sibyl, whom Orpheus consults about getting back his lost love. Take on the calm soul of the philosopher is her advice, ringed around with clusters of high notes calculated to make audiences forget all about Eurydice.

The LPO gave *Orfeo* a rare airing in its current Haydn festival. It was hardly the semi-staged performance promised: the chorus lined up at the back of the orchestra and the soloists at the front. But the cast was strictly operatic and showed the value of the LPO's Glyndebourne link. All the principals had sung there recently.

Christiane Oelze was Anne Trulove in *The Rake* two years ago and her Eurydice shows the same ability to convey purity and innocence. Her soprano stays light and delicate and she steered well clear of overdoing things as Eurydice expires. The sighing was rightly left to the orchestra, which had an invigorating evening under Frieder Bernius.

Claron McFadden was a lateish replacement as the Sibyl and she glittered away with a fusillade of high notes as awesome as those Mozart gave the Queen of the Night. The Sibyl comes and goes, but Orpheus himself is on stage for most of the time. Kurt Streit, a highly accomplished Mozartian, had no problems in a part punishing not least because of lengthy recitatives Haydn might have snipped a bit. Streit has the lyric qualities, which proclaim Orpheus the soother of souls, and also the bottom register to cope with the low notes strewn throughout the part. Creon, Eurydice's father, is a stereotype, but his three arias at least have variety as William Dazeley was quick to emphasise.

Terry Edwards's London Voices in this heavily choral work have to play everything from cupids to bacchantes. Clean sound, poor diction.

There is a further performance tomorrow.

JOHN HIGGINS

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Women's last stand in Oxford

Angelica Goodden on the ironies of men moving into St Hilda's

The recent vote by the governing body of St Hilda's College, Oxford, to open its fellowship to men is widely thought to have delivered the *coup de grâce* to the university's single-sex tradition. But St Hilda's may yet reverse its decision, and for a significant reason. Perhaps the true issue is not the economic factors that prompted the vote for change, but the cause of female academics. What St Hilda's plight shows is how badly the law against sexual discrimination has misfired.

It is widely known that women are chronically underrepresented in university life. Even in the United States, the Mecca of academics, barely 14 per cent of full professorships are held by women. In Oxford, women have a similarly low proportion of the permanent academic jobs; some faculties, including my own, have no female professors at all. Yet the proportion of female undergraduates at Oxford, like most British universities, is now some 40 per cent and will soon reach parity with men.

Common sense suggests that positive steps should be taken to increase the proportion of women in university teaching; but because St Hilda's elects only women to its tutorial fellowships, it is deemed to be in breach of equal opportunities legislation, and so is punished financially by its parent institution. Because St Hilda's does not actively support the rights of men, the University of Oxford cannot legally support it and contributes nothing to the cost of university lectureships that St Hilda's badly needs.

The irony, of course, is that the pendulum has actually swung decisively in the direction of "men's rights". Three of the other four colleges founded for women a century ago have now embraced the cause of male employment so enthusiastically that men constitute roughly three-quarters of their fellowship, though Somerville, the last to go mixed, has not yet emulated them. But perhaps it is not a question of conscious enthusiasm. Men, so the argument goes, are simply better equipped to teach certain academic subjects (particularly scientific ones), and it is incumbent on any employer to choose the best person for the job.

No doubt there is some truth in this. But given growing concerns about "gender bias" at both senior and junior levels of academic life, a degree of scepticism is in order. Science fellows at St Hilda's are far from unanimous in agreeing that competent women cannot be found for appointments to scientific posts. Does the fact that men hold so many jobs in areas where women's strengths are acknowledged — that is, in arts subjects — mean that men are somehow better than women at making a case for themselves? Do men impress interviewing panels as more proficient, dynamic and capable than women? It is incontrovertibly the case that most men, not having children to bear, have more time to devote to other kinds of production, with consequential benefits to their *curriculum vitae*. Aside from this, men applying for university jobs may simply assert an unconscious or semi-conscious authority that their historically disadvantaged female peers are without. The likelihood of bias in those who are assessing their relative professional strengths may seem remote, but it still deserves investigation.

The need is all the more pressing in the light of recent research at Cambridge which, while suggesting that female undergraduates find female supervisors less confrontational and intimidating than male ones, also indicated that the "masculine" qualities of aggressiveness, fearlessness, decisiveness and panache earn examination candidates more marks than the "feminine" qualities of patience and sensitivity. In other words, bravado (often disguising shallowness and lack of preparation) leads to a better degree than punctiliousness. The figures showing that men are awarded more firsts than women may simply mean that men, rather than being inherently more intelligent than women, have better learnt how to sell themselves.

> Male panache may be better rewarded than female patience

Perhaps, then, female achievement — or lack of it — at senior levels of university life parallels female achievement (or the lack of it) at the junior level, with the self-presentation skills more common in men than women being decisive in both. This possibility should cause grave concern to all who take education seriously. The unique identity of an institution such as St Hilda's is neither quaint nor irrelevant. As long as doubts remain about the equity of judgments of academic performance and potential, the importance of the female view must be tirelessly proclaimed. As long as the suspicion of subconscious discrimination on sexual grounds persists, the interests of those who may be so discriminated against must be supported.

Financial pressures on universities are frightening, and perhaps frighten women more than men. The fear of letting heart rule head (traditionally seen as a female weakness) has led a number of women at St Hilda's to vote for change. But wishing to retain our distinctive character is a pragmatic impulse, not a product of emotional yearning. A college founded in the name of disadvantage, and which has been poverty-stricken since its foundation, cannot easily ride the financial storm which has long been brewing as a consequence of equal opportunities legislation. The old, strong desire to preserve the distinctiveness of an all-female institution should not hastily give way to market forces. Many beyond the college deprecate the stampede towards coeducation, declaring that variety is what the university needs. But none has ever attempted to translate conviction into action.

The author is a fellow of St Hilda's College.

The time for a change argument is boosting the Scottish Nationalists, but their hopes are unrealistic

Can Scotland go it alone into Europe?

William Rees-Mogg

Scotland's political mood is quite different from that in England, as Magnus Linklater has been telling us in articles on this page. Last weekend I went to see for myself. I had been invited to speak to a lunch meeting in the Central Fife constituency, where my younger son, Jacob, is the prospective Unionist candidate. This was not an election meeting — the campaign has not started yet — but a serious discussion of the constitutional issues of Scotland's relationships both with Europe and the United Kingdom. There was indeed a raffle for party funds: the first prize was the choice of a signed photograph of Margaret Thatcher or a bottle of whisky, and the winner chose the photograph.

At the 1992 general election, the Conservatives won 25.7 per cent of the vote in Scotland, and 45.5 per cent in England, a 20 per cent gap between the two countries; in 1997 that gap will be much narrower. The Tories are far behind 1992 in all the polls in England; in Scotland they may actually increase their share of the vote.

There are a number of reasons for this. The most important is that the "time for a change" argument tells at least equally strongly against Labour in Scotland. Labour has been the majority party in Scotland as long as anyone can remember, particularly dominant in the big centres of population. Some of the support for the Scottish National Party (SNP) comes from this factor of boredom. The central group in the Labour leadership — Tony Blair, Gordon Brown, Robin Cook and Donald Dewar — all have Scottish connections, though Tony Blair is not seen as Scottish in Scotland. For the English voters, this is a new team; for Scottish electors, such figures are as over-familiar as the Tory team in England.

Scotland is also suspicious of new Labour. Scottish Labour voters are traditionalist and trade-unionist; they support the Labour local government in big cities. John Smith was their ideal leader, coming from the right wing of old Labour. Tony Blair is resented by many Scottish Labour supporters as an Englishman with a fancy accent who has hijacked their party. The qualities that make Tony Blair popular in England tend to tell against him in Scotland.

If "time for a change" is working for anyone in Scotland, it is working for the SNP. It is picking up alienated Labour votes, but at the cost of appearing as a party to the left of Labour. Not so long ago, Labour activists sneered at the SNP as "tartan Tories", and the SNP did indeed have right-wing as well as left-wing supporters. Now its right-wing support is drying up. Jacob has already been canvassing the more Conservative sections of Glenrothes, the new town which forms the main part of the constituency. Of the few who have raised the SNP question, three have said they would vote SNP, but three have said that they voted SNP at the last election but are not going to do so again. That does not have the makings of an SNP landslide in Fife.

There are not many Liberal Democrats in Central Fife, though they have Menzies Campbell next door in Fife North East, a Liberal-Conservative marginal. Menzies Campbell is a much respected figure in the old Scottish liberal tradition; I suspect that this tradition, which I admire, is as much in decline as the old Scottish Tory tradition of Alec Douglas-Home. Scotland is not going back to the lairds.

The Scottish Conservatives are suffering from the general unpopularity of the Government, but even that looks different north of the border. Scottish Tories do not talk much about John Major; the focus of their loyalty is much more likely to be Michael Forsyth, the Secretary of State. He is a genuinely popular figure in Scotland, respected even by people opposed to his politics. Labour knows that he is the Tory it has to beat. I heard one comment, not from a Conservative, that he has been "by light years the best Secretary of State of modern times". He is also seen by Scots as a real Scot, not an Englishman in a kilt. I would not give anyone else much chance of holding his ultra-marginal seat of Stirling, but he might just do it. If he does, he could come back to Westminster as the one member of the Cabinet with a really successful election campaign.

Europe is a good deal more popular in Scotland than in England. For the Scottish voter, the European Union is seen as a generous provider of regional funds, and as a potential ally for Scottish nationalism, whereas English nationalists see Europe as a threat to national independence. Euroscepticism has little resonance in Scotland. I found that the issues which might arise from the SNP's policy of an independent Scotland inside the European Union were new to most of my audience. I suspect that many Scots see the appeal of the policy but have not yet seen its difficulties.

There are two European objections to admitting a separate Scotland. The first is funding. Ireland has been a very large beneficiary from EU funds, most of which are provided by Germany and some by the United Kingdom. Scotland would not get the same benefits as Ireland. After the experience of funding East Germany, and with the need to fund the East European candidates for entry to the EU, Germany will not take on an increased commitment to pay for Scotland. The German economy is in difficulties, with high unemployment. The message that would be given to an applicant Scotland by the EU is "the gravy train has been cancelled until further notice".

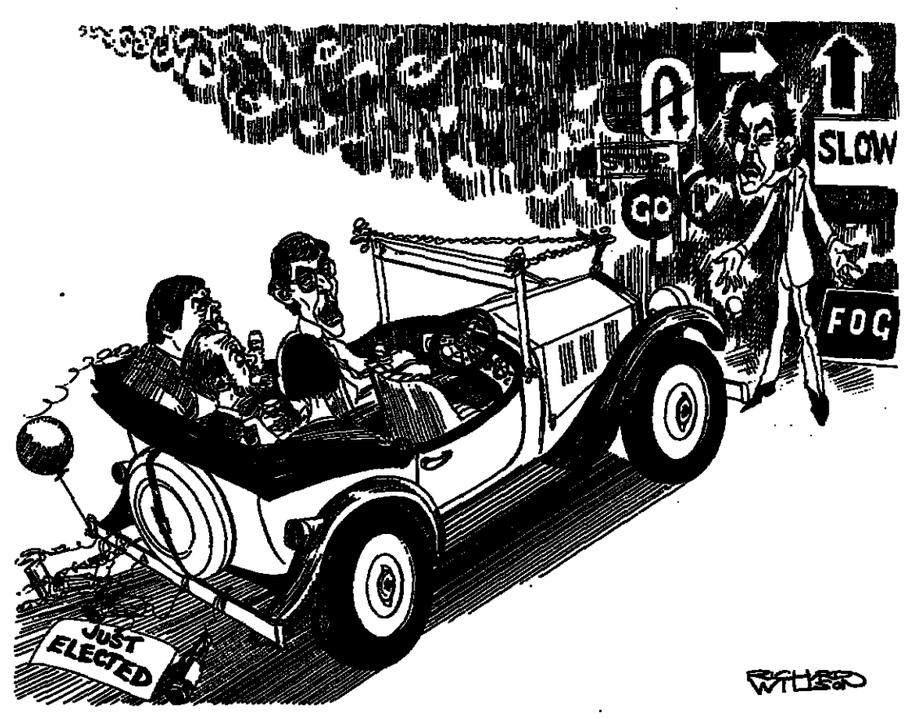
Scotland might not be admitted at all. All the larger European countries have reason to fear the fragmentation of Europe. Scotland joined the United Kingdom by the Act of Union in 1706; Bavaria joined the German Empire only in 1871. Catalonia has as strong claim to separate membership of the EU as Scotland; so perhaps has Lombardy; so have the Basques, the Flemings and/or the Walloons. To admit a separate Scotland to the EU would threaten the disintegration of Germany, France, Italy, Spain and Belgium. That is not something the EU will be keen to facilitate.

The constitutional ferment in Scotland is based on real emotions and is going to have an impact on the whole United Kingdom. The Unionists in Scotland naturally have a much better understanding of the reality of Scottish national feeling than anyone in London. They recognise the strength of Scottish national patriotism, which they share. What they fear is that a Scottish parliament, inevitably dominated by the Labour vote in Strathclyde, would quarrel with a future Westminster Parliament of a different party, as such a Scottish parliament might have quarrelled with Margaret Thatcher's administrations. They fear that such a quarrel would break up the United Kingdom. They want to find a better way forward.

One interesting new element has been injected into this debate: Andrew Neil has become editorial director of *The Scotsman*, which in two or three months has been changed almost out of recognition. It is now very reminiscent of the aggressive, anti-Establishment but open-market *Sunday Times* of the 1980s. *The Scotsman's* line on the sleaze allegations has been as tough as anyone's. Indeed, Scottish Tories much resent it. Yet Andrew Neil is not a little Scotland man, but a radical anti-Establishment Scottish Thatcherite like Michael Forsyth himself; both believe in meeting global competition. The Adam Smith case for an open-market Scotland does not now lack champions. When the campaign starts, I think Jacob is going to have some fascinating issues to discuss.

Time to show some boldness

Peter Riddell says Labour's election-winning strategy is short on frankness



Tony Blair should start taking some risks. He often says privately, "You don't think I have been so radical with the Labour Party only to be cautious in government". But that is the impression that Labour's safety-first campaign is giving. The party's leaders are so obsessed with avoiding the mistakes of the past — understandably after four successive defeats — that they have adopted a minimalist strategy: attack the Tories on the "enough is enough" theme and make no controversial promises. That approach looks like working on May 1, but it will not prepare voters for what is needed in government.

Mr Blair's advisers argue that there is an election to be won, and that the time for risks and frankness is afterwards. Anyway, Labour has been more responsible than past Oppositions, promising only what it can deliver. Mr Blair is, admittedly, in a very different position from Harold Wilson after the February 1974 election, when he was faced with a ragbag of expensive promises made to trade union and party activists, which he spent his final two years as Prime Minister evading. Mr Blair would have no such trouble on entering Downing Street.

But avoiding excess commitments is not enough. Gordon Brown has been right to insist upon tight spending controls, both to reassure the markets and to lower expectations. But he is being disingenuous in claiming merely that there is nothing in Labour's plans that would raise taxes, aside from the windfall levy on the utilities and the other, mainly gimmicky, "early" pledges. He drew a distinction yesterday, saying privatised utilities that are regulated and licensed by statute would be "eligible" for such a levy, but only those that have earned excess profits will be "liable". This would limit the main impact to the regional electricity and water companies. Otherwise, by proposing an audit of the "books", Mr Brown is preparing the way for a "shock, horror" revelation when, as the incoming Chancellor, he can claim the figures are worse than he expected, and blame the Tories for any need to raise taxes.

But Mr Brown already knows that the projections in the Treasury's Red Book are flawed, even though he has pledged to maintain spending plans for the next two years. These spending totals, and the recent growth rate of health spending, can be maintained only by cuts in programmes such as social security

FIDDELL ON MONDAY

(which Labour has opposed), and/or by higher taxes. The over-optimism may be the Tories' fault, but the constraint is already clear. That is why Mr Brown is wrong to raise hopes about the early introduction of a 10 per cent starting rate of income tax. If this is to have any real impact, it will involve higher taxes for the better-off.

Mr Blair was right yesterday to emphasise in the *News of the World* the importance of trust on tax. But he may live to regret the firmness of his remark that "if, after five years, I break my promises on tax, on not raising basic and top rates of income tax, on trade unions and these essential things I have said we will do, we are gone. We are probably finished for ever". Labour is in danger of being too clever by half, since the basic and higher rates are symbolic and are not the same as the overall tax burden. Even after Mr Brown's promise yesterday, not to increase national insurance contributions, there are many other ways to raise taxes. Many voters will not understand the distinction if personal taxes rise in other ways, and Labour would be accused of betraying the spirit, if not the letter, of Mr Blair's pledge.

For all their caution about making *new* promises, Mr Blair and Mr Brown have so far failed to prepare the ground for the necessary and difficult decisions on paying for *existing* programmes, with the important exception of replacing student grants by loans. Avoiding pledges to reverse Tory changes is not enough. Any new government will have to explore new ways of financing public services, such as an earmarked health tax, as well as further privatisation.

Labour's risk-averse strategy has drawn heavily on the lessons of the Clinton campaigns in 1992 and 1996, and is similarly driven by polling and market research. Mr Blair's advisers are worried by evidence of a sceptical mood among voters, and have been keen to minimise the distance between the main parties when it comes to Europe, and especially a single currency. This was reflected in the markedly sceptical, at times almost nationalist, language in Mr Blair's article in *The Sun* last Monday, which was followed by that paper's endorsement of Labour the next day.

Even though Mr Blair is dubious about the merits of monetary union now, his vision of Britain's role in Europe is totally different from the populist scepticism of *The Sun*. Labour advisers are being too cynical for their long-term good. They say "wait until after the election and you will see our true pro-European colours". I agree. Mr Blair will be keen to demonstrate that he wants, and is able, to pursue a more positive approach than John Major could. But a willingness to compromise at the Amsterdam summit in June will bring charges of betrayal from some of his fair-weather supporters in the press.

Mr Blair has a clear idea of his priorities on education, welfare reform, relations with business and Europe, and constitutional reform. He knows what he wants Britain to be like in five years' time. But he has not spelt out what this will involve, the means as well as the ends. The ruthless and so far successful campaigning strategy risks being all things to all people. Labour will no doubt claim that if it wins a big majority, it will have a mandate for its programme. But it will not if it fails now to address the choices facing Britain. Mr Blair should show some of the same boldness as a prospective Prime Minister that he has displayed as Labour leader.

And be damned

WRITERS who feel badly treated by their publishers have a new and unlikely hero in Darius Guppy. Last week, via the High Court, he instituted proceedings against his publisher, Blake Publishing, in order to recover the third and final payment for his autobiography, *Roll the Dice*.

Before taking on this new role as publishing's Wat Tyler, Citizen Guppy was best known for his Pink Pantherish attempt to defraud Lloyd's of London with a faked jewel theft. Bungling on the job landed him a spell in chokey, which was awkward for one who had served as best man to the present Earl Spencer.


Guppy: upper hand

Blake Publishing, whose stable includes Ronnie Kray, the former Rhodesian Prime Minister Ian Smith and the Duchess of York's psychic friend Madame Vasso, paid Guppy a hefty advance for his book. When the final cheque was due, however, Guppy was told several times that it was "in the post".

After a couple of months, he grew fed up and on March 6, after Blake failed to put in a defence, he obtained a judgment ordering it to cough up or give a good reason for not doing so, and on March 17 he applied to have its assets seized. All rather embarrassing for Blake, which is said to want to go upmarket.

All rights and royalties from the book and an expected film should now revert to Guppy, who is revelling in the fight. "Now he has the law working for him rather than against him," says one close friend, "there's no stopping him."

● *Good old Peter Mandelson, the caring new Labour campaign director. When the election was called, he rallied the 100 or so youths who run the Labour war-room in Millbank Tower and told them they should follow his lead by taking plenty of vitamins and giving up alcohol for the duration. Over at Tory Central Office, they are without such pastoral care. After 10pm, out comes the whisky — and recriminations soon follow.*

Yanked out

HORSEY English accents and Jermyn Street shirts were greatly in evidence at the opening of the International Asian Art Fair in New York on Friday night.

Of the 50 exhibitors, 20 are from London, including the one-time Kensington Palace habitué Oliver Hoare, the St James's gong-pedlars Spink & Sons, Bond Street's John Eskenazi and Mount Street's Michael Gillingham, whose left eyebrow quivered in discreet ecstasy at the dollar sales figures.

At the bar it was British G & Ts all round, with one son of Albion loudly calling out: "None of that ice in mine, thank you, Luigi." Could this really be Manhattan?

All that was missing was the Duchess of York, who was expected to arrive with the Hong Kong billionaire David Tang. Her place was capably filled by a svelte Ghislaine Maxwell. The Old Marlburian ex-pat manfully resisted the lentil curry canapés, explaining: "Me skirt will burst if I do."

Scotch broth

NOT before time, Scottish Opera, one of the most troubled opera companies in the world, has chosen a martinet as its new general director. Ruth Mackenzie, 40, has earned a formidable reputation as executive director of Nottingham Playhouse for the past seven years. She will take up her Scottish posting in September. "I am thrilled to be joining the company at so exciting a time," she says.

In recent years, Scottish Opera has been getting through staff as quickly as Liberace went through sequins. Last year it even considered doing away with its orchestra — an essential, one would have thought, for an opera company.

● *Tired of Tupperware, chafed by charity work, the ladies who lunch have a new excuse to run up their platinum card bills. In Langan's Brasserie, Mayfair, the other day a table of women with fixed hair and fixed tans sat surrounded by the rubble of a champagne lunch. One of them was wearing a veil. On inquiry it turned out they were celebrating the fact that their veiled friend had decided not to get married. They called this event an unwedding party.*



"I like it. I like it"

Ring cycle

ON the day of the Tories' victory in the 1992 general election, Michael Portillo, then Minister for Local Government, pulled out his mobile telephone in an Italian restaurant and rang his Labour Shadow David Blunkett to gloat.

This time round, Blunkett is hoping for revenge. He bumped into Portillo recently in the Commons and demanded his mobile number. Portillo promised to send it round the next day, blithely brushing aside the possibility that this time round it will be him eating the humble pie and Blunkett the ravioli.

As I say . . .

BACK IN January, PHS predicted that it would not be long before Honor Fraser, the Scottish model, was signed up as the face of the French fashion house, Givenchy. Now, according to those close to her, it's a deal.

Miss Fraser, sister of Lord Lovat, has been close to Alexander McQueen, chief designer at the French fashion house, ever since he was cutting frocks on his kitchen table. Her cousin, Stella Tennant, will doubtless be passing on advice, having ousted Claudia Schiffer to become the face of Chanel last year. The money Miss Fraser is likely to make from the contract should ensure that she need never concern herself with the cost of a laddered tight again.


Honored in France

P·H·S

هكذا من الأصل

HARD LABOUR

Blair has to stick to tough free-market employment policies

Britain is booming, proclaims the latest Tory election poster. Unemployment has fallen to just 6.2 per cent, the Office for National Statistics announced on Wednesday. Why, then, are jobs still cited as the third most important problem facing Britain, after health and education? And why is Labour seen as having better policies on unemployment by a majority of three to one?

An informed debate on employment issues ought to play a central role in the election campaign. And a proper understanding of these issues will be even more important after the voting is over, since a Labour government would be under intense pressure from its supporters to revert to a traditionalist strategy on job creation, workplace conditions and union rights. The critical arguments about employment, discussed in today's Election Guide on page 6, can be boiled down to two points.

While Britain's job market has performed well by European standards in the three years of economic recovery since the 1991-92 recession, the long-term employment record in the 18 years of Tory government gives no cause for self-satisfaction. Unemployment today is still higher than it was when Margaret Thatcher took office. This one fact may alone be sufficient to explain the continuing public anxiety about jobs, even without considering the less secure nature of today's employment, the widespread hardship caused by compulsory early retirements and the big transfer of jobs in favour of women and part-timers at the expense of full-time men. Another statistical cause for concern is that the total rate of employment growth in Britain since 1979 has not been significantly higher, despite all the newfound flexibility and deregulation, than in the hidebound economies of France, Italy and probably Germany (where figures have been distorted by reunification in 1989).

But against all these disappointments must be set one overwhelming and unquestionable achievement of the Tory period: the taming of the trade unions and the creation of a completely new culture of economic realism, productivity, and competitiveness in British industrial relations. It is easy to forget that the question of whether the country should be governed by Parliament or by trade unions dominated British politics not only in the 1979 election, but also in the the elections of 1974, 1970 and 1966. During both of the last two Labour Governments, ministers found it literally impossible to imagine how they could run the economy and avoid galloping inflation without imposing incomes policies and offering the unions decisive political power.

By breaking the monopoly power of the trade unions, by deregulating the labour market, and by focusing economic policy on incentives, productivity and profits, rather than political intervention, archaic tradition and coercive rights, the Tories put in place the foundations for an economic renaissance in Britain. If the benefits of these reforms have not yet been more impressively manifested, the explanation lies partly in the Tories' own macroeconomic mismanagement, but also in the simple fact that supply side reforms inevitably take many years to produce results. A newly elected Labour government could conclude that the Tories' employment reforms were not, after all, what the country needed and drift back to the old collectivist approach. This would be nothing short of a tragedy for Britain.

Tony Blair seems aware of the disastrous consequences of returning even part way to his party's old policies on employment. But a Labour government, by its very nature, would contain loud and powerful voices for turning back the clock. And many of Mr Blair's policies — on the social chapter, on minimum wages and on union recognition — suggest that he may be ready to appease the traditionalists. Nothing will be more important for Mr Blair than to resist old Labour's siren calls for re-regulating the workplace — and nothing will be harder.

RUSSIA'S WOUNDED PRIDE

The West must show that Helsinki was not another Versailles

President Yeltsin surprised everyone at Helsinki last week with his physical vigour and political agility. Fit, alert and jovial, he spent long hours negotiating with President Clinton and decided to make the best of a weak hand. Knowing that he could not stop the eastward expansion of Nato, he used the occasion to wring from Mr Clinton what concessions he could. He was promised virtually full membership of the renamed "Summit of the Eight", he was offered a rapid beginning to Start 3 negotiations on nuclear reductions and he was given assurances of backing for Russian membership of the World Trade Organisation and the Paris Club of export credit agencies.

On the crucial issue of Nato expansion, however, he achieved almost nothing. Mr Clinton promised that no nuclear weapons or military infrastructure would be deployed on the territory of the three proposed new members; and he promised a document in the next few weeks detailing Russia's role in co-ordinating policy with Nato. Both had long been assumed to be the minimum necessary to allow expansion to go ahead at all. Mr Yeltsin won no new assurances that former Soviet republics would be kept out of Nato and no guarantee that the proposed Nato-Russia Council would be legally binding. All he obtained was an agreement to disagree and soothing words about Nato's peaceful intentions.

To Mr Yeltsin's critics, his performance was lamentable. Accusations of capitulation echoed around Moscow even before he arrived home. The Communists said out loud what everyone in Russia, and the West, recognises: Russia is being admitted "no further than Nato's cloakroom". More ominously, Gennadi Zyuganov, the Communist leader, compared the summit outcome to the treaty of Versailles. The parallels may not be exact. But if Russians are provoked by nationalist demagogues into believing that their country has been "stabbed in the back," long-term hopes for East-West stability can only suffer.

For the moment, Mr Yeltsin can probably ride out the storm. His remarkable physical recovery gives him an unexpected political initiative. In any case, the Nato setback may soon be overshadowed by a challenge far more immediate to Russian voters: the threat of a nationwide strike on Thursday by millions of workers unpaid for months. The strike could be a catalyst for other pent-up grievances, and violence is likely. The Government is particularly worried about 17 regions where the economic situation is especially bad and where opposition leaders are encouraging the strike.

Mr Yeltsin may try to intervene personally to mitigate the damage to his popularity inflicted in Helsinki. He must find a way to break the vicious circle of uncollected taxes and unpaid salaries and pensions. Unless the real grievances of millions of desperate workers can be assuaged, further reform will be thwarted. Too many Russians already associate privatisation with private plunder, capitalism with criminality.

Nato comes well down the list of the Russians' concerns, behind crime, unemployment and ethnic conflict. But the West should not gloat about using this window of opportunity to enlarge Nato while Russia is weak. Russians have long memories, a strong sense of their country's history and dangerous resentments. Mr Clinton may believe he won all he wanted in Helsinki. He must now redouble his efforts to prevent the Russians believing they lost too much.

CLASS DISTINCTIONS

Two worlds of student life revealed by a new survey



Britain's universities boast undergraduates who are more than a degree apart. A new survey, which we report today, reveals an aristocracy alongside an impoverished rump. While the smart set heads for Latin America for the duration of the long vacation, the poor relations can look forward to a summer spent stacking shelves at the local supermarket. While Katherine has the fast car, personal computer and mobile phone, poor Darren survives on baked beans all term with an adverse effect on his social life. The enormous expansion of higher education has brought not a new egalitarianism but a fresh elitism, based on high technology possession.

This study rings true to those who have experience of modern campus life. There is barely room for the poor professor's ancient Mini Metro in car parks heaving with the Aston Martins owned by those they teach. Students read essays from their laptops. Lectures are constantly interrupted by the annoying chimes of mobile phones. Most students, of course, have none of these trinkets. But this only adds to the brazenness of those who do and who look forward with confidence to a starting salary comfortably in excess of their tutors'.

Was it not ever thus? The pre-war Oxford of *Brideshead Revisited* had far deeper and starker social divisions. Then the young gentlemen would spend an easy life based around their dining societies, rarely even bothering to sit their final exams. Meanwhile, the grammar school boys would cluster in the libraries, seeking them out as much for warmth as wisdom.

At least today it is not impossible for the average student to improve his or her lot. Companies are increasingly keen to employ them during the vacation, not least as a means of ensuring future recruitment. The slow erosion of the student grant has persuaded most that such work is not beneath them. Most undergraduates seem to survive despite skirmishes with the bank manager.

Other aspects of the survey debunk long-established student myths. Lager, not LSD, remains the preferred external stimulant. Tastes in radio and television look distinctly conventional. And more students choose to read this newspaper than any other. Whatever expensive gadgets the students may or may not own, a decent degree and well-paid job at the end are common objectives. Some still reflect wistfully on the revolutionary spirit of the 1960s, but demonstrations now seem inefficient and low-tech compared with a protest on the Internet. The true icon to the 1990s university generation seems to be Bill Gates, not Che Guevara.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Publication in the public interest

From the Director of the Campaign for Freedom of Information

Sir, Some of the arguments raised by *The Guardian*'s publication of evidence to Sir Gordon Downey (reports, March 21 and 22) were tested in the High Court in a 1994 case. On that occasion the court attached overriding importance to the need to allow electors to debate an issue of public interest before rather than after an election.

Liverpool City Council had lost several million pounds after awarding a cable-laying contract to its own direct services organisation, despite warnings that it was ill-equipped for the task. The council commissioned accountants KPMG Peat Marwick to investigate. The *Liverpool Echo* learnt of the findings of KPMG's draft report, but was prevented from publishing them by an ex-parte injunction obtained by the firm, which the paper then challenged.

KPMG argued that it would be damaging to the individuals named in the report, and to its own professional interests, to allow anything other than the final report to be publicly debated. The newspaper pointed out that if the injunction stood the public would be denied the information until after the local elections, then some four weeks away.

Mr Justice Pill lifted the injunction, so that the findings could be "the subject of debate before the election". He commented:

There is a substantial sum of money involved, and the City Council elections are imminent. The pace at which the investigation has been conducted is not rapid.

... matters have not proceeded quickly. No good reason has been shown to me why the present stage should not have been reached some time ago. In my judgment the timescale is important in performing the balancing exercise, having regard to the imminence of the City Council elections.

... in my judgment, the public interest in publication ... outweighs the interests which the Liverpool City Council has in restraining publication. It further outweighs the public and private interests which the plaintiffs have and it outweighs those interests in combination.

Yours sincerely,
MAURICE FRANKEL,
Director,
The Campaign for Freedom of Information,
Suite 102, 16 Baldwin Gardens, EC1.
March 22.

Tories' hopes and Labour's record

From Miss Elizabeth J. Smith

Sir, It was heartening to read Magnus Linklater's considered piece ("How Scots Tories could surprise us", March 20) in the run-up to the election. He has maintained a commendable objectivity in his observations about the political parties in Scotland. It makes a pleasant change from the untrammelled bias from the pens of too many of his colleagues north of the border.

No one doubts that the Scottish Conservatives face a challenge, but neither should there by any doubt that they are in good heart, nor that their message is sinking in.

I for one would be happy to join Mr Linklater's betting friend in predicting that the "Tories in Scotland just might surprise us all".

Yours faithfully,
ELIZABETH J. SMITH
(Prospective Conservative Parliamentary Candidate for Edinburgh South),
13 Mentone Gardens, Edinburgh 9.
March 21.

From Mr John E. Strafford

Sir, In his article (March 14) Matthew Parris states that "The Tories are heading for defeat". He goes on to argue that in such a case John Major should resist the pressure to resign immediately.

His article, however, is based on the presumption that it will only be the Parliamentary Conservative Party which will elect a new leader. Might I suggest that in the event of a defeat the whole of the Conservative Party would wish to participate in the election.

We know from your report (March 15) that "The Conservative Party is to press ahead with plans to change the rules for choosing its leader that would give party activists a vote for the first time". Any attempt to hold a leadership election on the old basis before the "grassroots" members of the party had decided to what extent they wished to be involved would, I feel sure, create strong and bitter resentment.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN E. STRAFFORD
(Chairman, Campaign for Conservative Party Democracy),
Perama, Fulmer Road,
Gerrards Cross, Buckinghamshire.
March 17.

From Mr B. Stansfield

Sir, Linda Moule (letter, March 21) is right to invoke elderly Conservatives to remind first-time voters of the reality of life under a Labour government.

Oh for a return to those heady days of affordable prescription charges, dental care, eye tests, residential care for the elderly, secure caring help for the mentally ill, only half a million unemployed, pre-Beeching railway services in rural areas, substantially lower crime figures, etc, etc.

Yours faithfully,
B. STANSFIELD,
7 Borthwick Park, Orton-Wistow, Peterborough, Cambridge.
March 21.

From Dr Kenneth E. C. Macaulay

Sir, Perhaps those good people who follow the advice of your correspondent Mrs Moule could also remind us of the meaning of the term "the NHS safe in our hands" when Mrs Major (report, March 20) is seen to give an award to a child who sold her toys to pay for her grandfather's cancer treatment.

Yours sincerely,
KENNETH MACAULAY,
3 Glamis Gardens,
Dalgety Bay, Fife.
March 21.

From Miss J. V. Morton

Sir, My father had a story of the canvasser in a 1930s general election being told bluntly by the householder: "I'm going to vote for Mr Baldwin. He promises nothing and he keeps his word."

Yours faithfully,
JANE MORTON,
May's House,
Fritwell, Bicester, Oxfordshire.
March 21.

From Mr Peter Grafton

Sir, The Hale-Bopp comet, like some of its historic predecessors, may presage some unexpected catastrophe. Perhaps Tony Blair should consult his astrologer as to whether he is more likely, come election day, to be hailed or bopped!

Yours faithfully,
PETER GRAFTON,
57 Padbrook,
Limpsfield, Oxted, Surrey.
March 21.

Tensions that built to Albania's crisis

From the Archbishop of Wales and others

Sir, Much recent reporting of the Albanian crisis has suggested that the collapse of the fraudulent pyramid savings schemes is the main cause of resentment against President Sali Berisha. The problems of Albania go much deeper than that.

In 1995 we were members of a delegation to Albania sponsored by the Council of Churches for Britain and Ireland. During that visit we met church leaders and aid workers to hear their concerns and in a personal meeting with the President we brought them to his attention.

They included reports of human rights abuses, corruption among members of the Democratic Party, arbitrary decision-making by officials for personal gain, the lack of a legislative framework for the equal treatment of all Christians and Muslims, and concerns in advance of the 1996 Albanian elections (which we now know to be justified).

Subsequently, we have been concerned by reports of Albanians being harassed and beaten up by members of the Shik (the Albanian secret police who replaced the former communist Sigurimi), which indicate a growing intolerance by President Berisha of plural political activity in the country.

We are anxious, therefore, that the international community support the cause of democratic and constitutional government in Albania and we hope they will back that support with economic aid and inward investment to provide Albanians with real employment prospects and the constitutional freedoms we take for granted.

If not, internal tensions will continue and Albanians will continue to become economic migrants in Greece, Italy and Germany or refugees on rusting hulks in the Adriatic. The danger to the entire Balkan region and the cost to the international community will then be incalculable.

Yours sincerely,
†ALWYN CAMBRENSIS,
BRYAN OWEN
(CCBI Balkans Working Group),
G. R. SPARKES
(Baptist Union of Great Britain),
Bishop's House,
St Asaph, Denbighshire, LL17 0TW.
March 21.

From Sir John Stokes

Sir, I write in support of Lord Bethell's letter (March 17) about Berisha. In 1992 I was asked by the Council of Europe to lead a delegation to oversee the elections in Albania. We met Mr Berisha and formed a good opinion of him and we also went all over the country and were satisfied that the elections were both free and fair.

Recently Mr Berisha may have been unwise and unlucky, but he is not a bad man and I do not believe he should be castigated for all the chaos that now exists in Albania.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN STOKES,
4 The Bradburys,
Stratton Audley,
Nr Bicester, Oxfordshire.
March 18.

Assisted places

From the Headmistress of The Mount School, York

Sir, Your leader of March 18, "A Girl's Best Chance", is very timely. Girls' public schools have indeed been pioneers in equal opportunities and thinking about the contribution women can make to society. Here, for instance, at The Mount Quaker School in the 1870s, girls were inspired to study astronomy by the radical socialist, Edward Carpenter, and took classes in geology. A debate on Home Rule electrified the school in 1888.

May I also extend the debate on the Assisted Places Scheme to embrace the role of Quaker schools, and others of like mind, which were founded in pursuance of "values" — those intangibles so warmly espoused by political parties.

These schools inculcate not just hard work and high endeavour but service, personal responsibility and initiative, an international outlook and respect for others. They are fee-paying because they could not otherwise exist — there is no state support available; but, thanks to bursaries and assisted places, their pupil body includes those with plenty of this world's goods and those with scarcely any. The loss of assisted places would merely restrict the intake, thus depriving a considerable body of children from experiencing the values of a Quaker school.

In many other areas of life we see bridges being built between the Labour Party and private enterprise: it is sad for those of us in education to see parallel bridges in our sector threatened with removal. It is difficult to understand the logic of continued support for grant-maintained schools on one hand and denial of assisted-place funding on the other.

Yours faithfully,
BARBARA J. WINDLE,
Headmistress,
The Mount School,
Dalton Terrace, York.
March 18.

From the President of the Girls' Schools Association

Sir, The advantages to girls of single-sex education are well attested, and it would be a grave pity if the abolition of the Assisted Places Scheme were to deny that option to girls from low-income families.

However, concern is now surfacing about the underachievement of boys. The relentless spread of coeducation may have contributed to this by polarising the sexes, suggesting to boys that academic achievement is "girlie" and encouraging them in laddishness, to differentiate themselves as much as possible from their female classmates.

So girls' schools are possibly good for boys as well as girls.

Yours faithfully,
JACQUELINE LANG,
President,
Girls' Schools Association,
130 Regent Road, Leicester.
March 19.

From the Headmaster of Nottingham High School

Sir, At a conference in London this week on the future of independent education (report, March 18) Mrs Margaret Hodge, shadow education spokeswoman, maintained that assisted-place schools were complaining about the planned phasing-out of the scheme by the Labour Party "out of self-interest".

In rebutting this disgraceful and unfounded accusation — which in itself demonstrates a complete lack of understanding of just how much assisted-place schools are already subsidising the scheme from their own funds — I made the point that the response of my own governors to the threatened end of the scheme was a very positive attempt to make provision for some assisted places from their own foundation income.

I further indicated that this was being done in addition to existing scholarship provision, at very considerable financial hardship to the school, and driven by the belief that it is vital for us to maintain a wide social mix, thus continuing the school's tradition of the last 500 years.

We are in a relatively rare position among schools participating in the scheme. The majority, with no foundation income to call on, would be unable even to consider self-financing assisted places. Even those few fortunate enough to have such an income can contemplate introducing only a very small proportion of places.

For Mrs Hodge to suggest, as she did, that a school such as this "could carry on the benefits that the scheme brings" is consistent with current published Labour thinking: ie, the figures just do not add up.

Yours faithfully,
CHRIS PARKER,
Headmaster,
Nottingham High School,
Waverley Mount, Nottingham.
March 19.

Doctor off duty

From Mrs Mary Stones

Sir, You report (March 20) a campaign to discourage patients being in need of their GP over Easter.

No one in Stradbroke dared call Dr Drawner at weekends, and this was over 30 years ago. His successor was very surprised how peaceful it had been on his first duty Bank Holiday in the village.

Yours faithfully,
MARY STONES,
The Cottage Farm,
Stradbroke, nr Eye, Suffolk.
March 20.

You've been warned

From Mr Robert Vincent

Sir, My local newspaper warns me that the Council for the Protection of Rural England is recommending that all those people who love the countryside should get out and enjoy its peace and tranquillity. To that end it is naming June 7 and 8 a National Picnic Weekend.

As my house is surrounded by fields and grassland in this remote part of the Hampshire/Wiltshire border, I fear June 9 cannot come soon enough.

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT VINCENT,
Dilly House, Wildhern,
Andover, Hampshire.
March 20.

Home and away

From Mr Richard Lloyd

Sir, Further grounds for concern about standards of education are highlighted by your report (Sport, March 18) on the schools seven-a-sides at Rosslyn Park.

The team from Culford School was depleted when some of its players, on a journey from Suffolk to southwest London, managed to get lost in Hampshire. I trust the geography master will take immediate action, as and when they find their way back.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD LLOYD,
8 Station Road, Lingfield, Surrey.
March 18.

Charismatic services

From Mr Wes Sutton

Sir, While I have great sympathy for the young lady in her lack of friends at Sunday school ("I'm lonely, says Sunday school girl ...", March 17), I am interested in your reporter's use of the derisive term "happy clappy", giving the impression, as it seems to me, that those with a profound sense of joy and possessing the means of expression are to be pitied.

As the senior pastor of such a "happy and clappy" church I can assure you that those of us who rejoice in the person of Jesus Christ do so not as an escape from reality, but as a means of gaining strength, so that we can be involved in bringing a better and more satisfying way of living even to those who would regard us with pity.

Yours joyfully,
WES SUTTON
(Senior Pastor,
Vineyard Church, Loughton),
63 Algers Road, Loughton, Essex.
March 18.

Letters for publication should carry contact telephone numbers. We regret that we cannot accept letters by telephone but they may be sent by fax to 0171-782 5046.

Foreign parts

From Mr Nicholas Bridge

Sir, In his travel feature on Russia ("You need an Olga to clear your path", Weekend, March 15) Alexander Chancellor managed to convey many of the aspects of "the Englishman abroad" which foreigners find so entertaining.

To take just one example, could I offer the radical suggestion that the reason people did not speak to him in English was because they were in fact Russian? I cannot help but recall how useful one or two words of Russian were when I visited that country for the first time recently. Chancellor's comments about the need for an interpreter or, as he put it, "an Olga", seemed to reinforce the general sense of surprise he felt at all the strangeness around him.

I am most grateful to Mr Chancellor for reminding me how lucky I am to be living in this country and not one of those foreign places where things are all so different.

Yours faithfully,
NICHOLAS BRIDGE,
11 Melrose Avenue, N22.
March 16.

German map auction

From Mr Dan Clifton

Sir, You report (March 20) the planned auction of German maps of Great Britain, dating from the Second World War, which were designed for use in an invasion.

Such original documents are obviously of great interest to members of the public and historians alike. What is interesting, however, is that unlike these documents recovered by a British soldier in Germany, many of our own official records concerning Germany's wartime activities in Britain remain secret, more than 50 years later.

On the advice of the Public Record Office I recently applied to the Courts Service, an agency of the Lord Chancellor's Department, for the release of documents relating to the treatment and detention of wartime spies. Yet remarkably, despite the 30-year rule and the open government initiative, I was told the papers must remain secret. I find this hard to credit.

Yours sincerely,
DAN CLIFTON,
46 Handforth Road, SW9.
March 20.

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
March 22: The Duke of Edinburgh this morning left Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada. His Royal Highness arrived at Royal Air Force Northolt this evening. Brigadier Miles Hunt-Davis was in attendance.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
March 22: The Prince Edward, Trustee, The Duke of Edinburgh's Award International Foundation, and Chairman, International Council, The Duke of Edinburgh's Award International Foundation, this morning flew from New Delhi to Calcutta for a day of engagements.

His Royal Highness was received on arrival by Mr Simon Scadden (Deputy British High Commissioner) and was given a formal Indian welcome by Awardees before meeting the Committee of the Indian Award East Zone.

The Prince Edward afterwards viewed a demonstration of outdoor activities by Award participants at Salt Lake Stadium before visiting the Victoria Memorial.

His Royal Highness later visited the All Bengal Women's Union and met Award participants undertaking their service section in the orphanage, old people's home, school and hospice, as well as children participating in the Award from the orphanage.

The Prince Edward this afternoon attended a Luncheon given by the Bengal Chamber of Commerce at the Bengal Club.

His Royal Highness later visited an exhibition of Award activities and attended the Indian Award East Zone Award ceremony in the Taj Bengal Hotel.

The Prince Edward flew from Calcutta to Madras this evening and was received on arrival by the British High Commissioner (His Excellency the Hon Sir David Gore-Booth) before boarding *HMY Britannia*.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
March 23: The Prince Edward, Trustee, The Duke of Edinburgh's Award International Foundation, and Chairman, International Council, The Duke of Edinburgh's Award International Foundation, today undertook engagements in Madras.

His Royal Highness, accompanied by the British High Commissioner (His Excellency the Hon Sir David Gore-Booth), this morning attended a Reception and Luncheon for the Indian Award South Zone supporters at Chettinad House.

The Prince Edward this afternoon visited Chettinad Vidyashram and viewed Award activities before attending the Indian Award South Zone Gold Award ceremony.

His Royal Highness afterwards attended the Indian National Award Authority Council meeting.

The Prince Edward held a Dinner this evening for the Award's World Fellowship and later held a Reception for the Indian Award on board *HMY Britannia*, followed by Beat Retreat by Her Majesty's Royal Marines.

Birthdays today



Alan Sugar, chairman of Amstrad, is 50 today

Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Guy Acland, Deputy Master of the Household and Equerry to Her Majesty, 51; Air Chief Marshal Sir John Allison, 54; Mr David Atkinson, MP, 57; Mr Roy Berridge, former chairman, South of Scotland Electricity Board, 75; Miss Barbara Daly, make-up artist, 52; His Honour James Fox-Andrews, QC, 75; Mr Richard Giordano, chairman, BG, 63; Professor John Hedgecoe, Professor Emeritus of Photography, Royal College of Art, 60; Mr David Jewell, former Master, Haileybury College, 63; Sir John Kendrew, FRS, former President, St John's College, Oxford, 80; Miss Sonia Lannaman, athlete, 41; Sir Peter Leslie, former chairman, Commonwealth Development Corporation, 66; Mr Benjamin Luxon, baritone, 60; Sir Peter Meinertzhagen, former general manager, Commonwealth Development Corporation, 77; Her Honour Suzanne Norwood, 71; Dame Bridget Ogilvie, director, Wellcome Trust, 59; Sir Herman Ouseley, chairman, Commission for Racial Equality, 52; the Earl of Selborne, FRS, 57; Professor Dorothy Severin, Professor of Spanish, Liverpool University, 55; Miss Maude Storey, former President, Royal College of Nursing, 67; Mr Alan Sugar, chairman, Amstrad, 50; Mr P.D.R. Venning, secretary, Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings, 50; Professor H.B. Whittington, FRS, geologist, 81; Mr P.S. Winfield, former senior partner, Healey and Baker, 70.

Today's royal engagements

The Prince of Wales will hold a reception at St James's Palace at 5.30 in connection with the work of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, in world conservation and the Millennium Seed Bank; and will attend a reception at the Dorchester hotel at 7.15 to mark the 50th anniversary of Pakistan's independence.

The Princess Royal, as president of National Riding Week, will attend a Seminar on "Welfare Day" at Saddlers' Hall, at 10.25.

The Duke of Kent, as Patron of the London Philharmonic, to attend a concert at the Festival Hall at 7.10.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: William Morris, poet, artist, printer and socialist, Walthamstow, Essex, 1834; Silas K. Hocking, novelist and preacher, Brannel, Cornwall, 1850; Olive Schreiner, writer, Wittebergen, South Africa, 1855.

DEATHS: Queen Elizabeth I, reigned 1558-1603, Richmond, 1603; John Harrison, horologist and inventor of the marine chronometer, London, 1776; Charlotte Yonge, novelist, Otterbourne, 1901; John Millington Synge, dramatist, Dublin, 1909; Enrique Granados, composer, drowned when the *Sussex* was torpedoed in the English Channel, 1916; Mrs Humphry Ward, novelist, London, 1920; Orde Charles Wingate, leader of the Chindits, killed in an air crash, Assam, 1944; Mary, Queen Consort of King George V, Marlborough House, 1953; Bernard Law Montgomery, 1st Viscount Montgomery of Alamein, Hampshire, 1976.

The Oxford and Cambridge Boat Race ended in a dead heat for the first time, 1877.

Denmark abolished capital punishment, 1911.

Isabel Perón was deposed as President of Argentina in a bloodless coup, 1976.

Appointments in the Forces

Royal Navy & Royal Marines

CAPTAIN: L P Brokenshire to NMA Portsmouth, Sept 5; T J H Laurence to MoD London, Sept 12; J R Luard to IMS Brussels, April 20; T A Soar to Chatham in Cmd, Sept 29.

LIEUTENANT-COLONEL: D A Hopley to PJHQ in rank of Loc Col, July 4.

COMMANDER: G A Anteliffe to Drake, March 11; R S B Davies to MoD London, July 15; P J de Sa to MoD London, July 29; W F G Griffin to Navsouth Italy in rank of A/Capt, July 25; S W Howick to DRA Portsdown, Aug 1, in rank of A/Capt; A M Hussain to BDS Washington, Aug 15; P C Ingham to Dartmouth BRNC, Sept 16; T M Lowe to MoD London, Sept 2; J F C Lunn to Staff of 2SL/CNH, Sept 2; A D H Mathews to DNP Bristol, July 18; I Moncrieff to Invincible, March 25; J D Murch to MoD London, July 18; A R Nance to Montrose, Sept 2; R C Seaward to Navsouth Italy 2/9/97; M Storey to JSCSC, July 21; R N Wain to JSCSC March 19; G N Wright to Devonport, April 25.

MAJOR: T C G Hunter to HQ ARRC in rank of Loc Lt Col, July 14.

CHAPLAIN: B R Clarke to Exchange USA, July 7; J Hill to Collingwood, May 8; N J Kelly to Devonport, July 21; T J Lewis to Nelson, Sept 2.

Retirements

COMMANDER: H R Evans, May 28; G McAleese, May 9; R M Prynn, May 2; C P Young, April 25.



NACHELLE CROWTHER

Some biscuits go into the oven at the Recipe for Success course at Stroud

Recipe for raising self-esteem

BY JOHN YOUNG

THE young people who gather three days a week in a former boathouse on the edge of an industrial estate near Stroud in Gloucestershire have one thing in common. They have all had mental health problems.

Mostly in their twenties and thirties, friendly and well mannered if slightly diffident, they are attending a cookery class on how to prepare a nourishing meal for eight people for 50p a head.

The so-called Recipe for Success course is part of a project to help people who have suffered mental health problems to regain their place in society and become self-sufficient. It was started four years ago, initially in co-operation with a nearby psychiatric hospital, in the belief that medical treatment needed to be backed by encouraging patients to live in the "real" world, find jobs and cease to depend on benefits. Christine Gascoyne, the project manager, says: "The first thing we do is to try to get them to laugh, to see the funny side of things, to see life in balanced terms and to enjoy themselves."

Among those at the classes are two qualified chefs. One, Anthony Cawthraw, has been coming to the project for help and advice for the past four years. In between, he has worked in hotels and pubs but, he says, "things have not always worked out as planned". Meeting other people with similar difficulties has enabled him to become more self-confident and to enjoy life more.

Recipe for Success is among the entries for the 1996 Community Enterprise Awards, organised by Business In the Community and sponsored by The Times *and Deloitte & Touche. The winners will be announced in the next few weeks.*

Nature notes

THE first swallows are back, early this year: they have flown all the way from South Africa. On arrival, they feed on insects over lakes and rivers, and only move on later to the barns and country-house garages where they will nest. Their small, brown relatives the sand-martins are also coming in from the south: they will nest in tunnels in sandbanks and quarries.

Long-tailed tits are making their mossy, domed nests in gorse bushes and other evergreens: they bind them together with spider's webs and line them with up to a thousand feathers. Carrion crows and magpies are building their bulky nests of sticks and mud in the treetops, or repairing an old nest.



The swallow

Dog-violets are in flower: they have deep purple, scentless blossoms with a cream-coloured spur at the back. The first wild forget-me-nots are making blue patches at the foot of hedges. Whitlow grass is in bloom: it is one of the smallest British flowers, with stalks an inch or so high and tiny white blossoms, and grows among moss on the ground. Honeysuckle is in leaf: its blueish-green foliage entwines the trunks of small trees.

Hoverflies and gnats are in the air, and spiders are spinning new webs to catch them.

DJM

Marriages

The Hon Christopher Knollys and Miss Sarah Gwynne

The marriage took place on Saturday at St James Garlickhythe of the Hon Christopher Knollys, second son of Viscount and Viscountess Knollys, to Miss Sarah Gwynne, elder daughter of the late Mr E. St J. Gwynne and of Mrs William Merton, and stepdaughter of Mr William Merton. The Rev John Paul officiated.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her stepfather, was attended by Kitty Hall, Emma Snowball, Flora Stobart, Alexandra Triay, Harry Boscawen and George Davenport. Mr Jeremy Hall was best man.

A reception was held at Vintners' Hall and the honeymoon will be spent abroad.

Mr S.C. Becker and Miss R.E.L. Goodwin

The marriage took place on Saturday, March 22, at Kensington United Reformed Church, between Simon, son of the late Mr George Becker and of Mrs Delphine Guise and Rachel, daughter of Mr Kenneth Goodwin and Mrs Patricia Goodwin. The reception was held at Marble Hill House, Twickenham.

Mr A.J. de Garr Robinson and Miss M.J. Wilson

The marriage took place on Saturday, March 22, 1997, in London, of Tony de Garr Robinson and Miranda Wilson.

Service dinner

Mahar Regimental Association (UK)

Major E. Stanley-Jones presided at the annual reunion dinner of former officers of the Mahar Regiment and their ladies held on Saturday night at Moreton-in Marsh, Gloucestershire.

Dinner

Old Framlinghamians

Mr J.C. Gooderham, President of the Society of Old Framlinghamians, was in the chair at the society's annual dinner held on Saturday at Framlingham College. A presentation was made to Mr R.W.R. Smith on his retirement as trustee of the society for 20 years.

Association of District Judges

The following have been elected officers of the Association of District Judges for the ensuing year: *President*, District Judge Godfrey Evans; Senior Vice-President, District Judge Michael Hawthorne; Junior Vice-President, District Judge Richard Holloway.

Tudor Hall

Entry scholarships have been awarded at 11+, 12+ and 13+ to Matilda Hawkins, Garden House; Annabel Howard, Beeston Hall; Georgina Harris, Winchester House and Rosie Watt, Moor Park. Sixth-form travel scholarships have been awarded to Sila Lewis and Kate Fortescue joining Lewa Downs, north Kenya; Flora Barnett and Kate Shortt going in the footsteps of Van Gogh in France, and Nerea Hinzpeter photographing water fowl in a wildlife reserve in Andalucia, Southern Spain.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr J.P.K. Daly and Miss A.M. Wright

The engagement is announced between James, only son of Mr and Mrs Dermot Daly, of Willington, Tarporley, Cheshire, and Alex, elder daughter of Mr John Wright, of Bury, West Sussex, and Mrs Ann Dickerson, of Maidenhead, Berkshire.

Mr S.N. Fox and Miss S.L. Midwood

The engagement is announced between Simon, younger son of Mr David Fox and Mrs Shena Fox, of Zimbabwe, and Sarah, younger daughter of the late Mr Timothy Midwood and of Mrs Jean Midwood, of Tarporley, Cheshire.

Mr T.P.J. Groves and Miss K.S. Belton

The engagement is announced between Thomas, son of Mrs Gwyneth Groves and the late Mr Kenneth Groves, of Upminster, Essex, and Kerry, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs James Belton, of Rainham, Essex.

Mr R.G. Jarvill, AAC, and Miss N.D. Buckingham Smart

The engagement is announced between Richard, elder son of Major Michael Jarvill, *ret'd*, of Bratton, Wiltshire, and Mrs Andrew Peters, of Leeds, and Naomi (Noo), elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Stewart Buckingham Smart, of Shenley, Hertfordshire.

Dr T.M. Jobson and Dr M.L. Kane

The engagement is announced between Timothy, only son of Mr Peter Jobson, of Hardwick, Buckinghamshire, and of Mrs JB Knight, of Towersey, Oxfordshire, and Meridith, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Michael Kane, of Orpington, Kent.

Mr J.R. McCormick and Miss S.J. Reed

The engagement is announced between James, eldest son of the late Dr Peter McCormick and of Dr Anna McCormick, of Hardington Mandeville, Somerset, and Samantha, daughter of Mr and Mrs Peter Reed, of Hatefield, Middlesex.

Mr M. Smith and Miss E.M. Pawley

The engagement is announced between Mark, youngest son of Mr G. Smith, of Gloucester, and Mrs V. Anglin, of Bristol, and Elizabeth, only daughter of Mr and Mrs D. Hodges, of Colefind, Somerset.

Mr R.C. Solly and Miss K.A. Squire

The engagement is announced between Robert, elder son of John and Frances Solly, of Affpuddle, Dorset, and Katie, elder daughter of Michael and Annette Squire, of Hurstpierpoint, West Sussex.

Mr R.J. Watson and Miss T.J. Axe

The engagement is announced between Robert, younger son of Mr and Mrs Peter Watson, of Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire, and Tracy, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Brian Axe, of Bessacarr, Doncaster.

Royal Society of St George

Mr William Firth, of Greater Manchester, has been elected Chairman, and Mr Aubrey Temple, of Wickford, Vice-Chairman of the Royal Society of St George.

PERSONAL COLUMN

BMDS: 0171 680 6880
PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

TRADE: 0171 481 1982
FAX: 0171 481 9313

Is it nothing to you, you pass-by? If only you would look and see; is there any agony like mine? Lamentations 1 : 12

BIRTHS

COYNE - Pat and Jane are delighted to announce the birth of their beautiful son, Thomas Joseph, on 2nd February 1997.

EDWARDS - Timothy and Sandy (née Gearey) are excited to announce the birth of their first child, Adam James, 8lbs 3oz, on March 21st at The Royal Free Hospital, Hampstead.

LOVELL - On 17th March 1997, to Catherine (née Baron) and Jack, a son, William Patrick Francis, a brother for Harry, Charlie and Edmund.

LUFF - On 12th February, to Catherine and Charles, a son, Alexander Geoffrey Martin.

MEKOBCHE - On February 11th at The Portland Hospital, to Julie Parsons and Nicholas, a beautiful daughter, Alexa, a sister for Gregory and Hadrian.

MURPHY - On 21st March 1997, to Oshra and Michael, a daughter, Tamara.

ROSTRON - Eleanor on 21st March at St Mary's Hospital, Isle of Wight, a daughter to Beverly and Simon and sister to Imogen.

THOMSON - On March 20th, to Selina and Bill, a son, Freddie.

DEATHS

BALLS - suddenly on 13th March in South Africa, Ronald Gordon of Bexhill-on-Sea. Much loved and missed by his wife Maggie and family. Service at St Thomas's EC at Sevenoaks at 11.00am on Wednesday 2nd April. Donations if desired to Rockdale Housing Association, Sevenoaks.

BROOK - Cecil, unexpectedly at home on March 20th. Much loved husband of Barbara, father of Chris and Gill, and grandfather of Oliver, Nikki, James, Holly and Kate. Private Cremation. Thanksgiving Service at St Peter's Church, Terwick, nr Rogate on Tuesday April 8th at 11.30 am. Family flowers only, donations if desired to British Heart Foundation c/o Funeral Services, 18 The Square, Petersfield.

COCKBURN - Colonel John D.S.O., M.B.E., died peacefully on Thursday 20th March 1997, aged 96. Late of the Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders. Beloved husband of Diana. Funeral private. No letters please.

HERRIDGE - Geoffrey Howard C.M.G. On 21st March 1997 peacefully at West Wittering Nursing Home aged 93 years. Beloved husband of Dorothy, much loved father of Christina, Lily, Charles and Michael, and dear grandfather and great grandfather. Private cremation. Thanksgiving service on Thursday 27th March at St Mary's Church, Sidlesham, West Sussex at 2.30pm.

DEATHS

NICHOLAS - Ewadne died on 20th March. Wife of the late Ronald, Mother of James, John and Rosalind. Funeral to be held at Oxford Crematorium at 10.45 am on Wednesday 26th March. Family flowers only. Donations if desired, to Multiple Sclerosis Society, c/o Tomalin & Son, Funeral Directors, 38 Reading Road, Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire, RG9 1AG. Tel: (01491) 573370.

PETTITT - Harold M.B.E., formerly Chief Clerk of Churchill College, Cambridge, passed peacefully to rest in hospital on March 20th, aged 83. Thanksgiving Service at The Shared Church, Victoria Road, Cambridge on March 26th, at 1.30pm.

ROCK - Anne peacefully on 21st March. Survived by Carol and friends. Cremation Tuesday 25th March 12 noon at Golders Green Crematorium. No flowers. Donations to Mead Ward, St Thomas' Hospital, London SE1 7EH.

WRIGG - Ray, husband of Dot and father to Mark, Sharon and Nicola, passed away on March 19th 1997 after a brief illness. His distinguished International career spanned service with the Borneo Company, Inchcape Malaysia, and until 1990 as International Director with MK Electric. A service will take place at the Holy Trinity Church, Sandgate Road, Folkestone, Kent at 11.30am Wednesday 26th March 1997 followed by a private cremation. No flowers, but donations welcome to the East Kent Hospice Project c/o Christine Pledger, 10 Metropol Court, The Leas, Folkestone, Kent CT20 2LT.

WILLOUGHBY - The Rev. Canon Bernard Digby passed peacefully away at Salruck on Friday 21st March, aged 100. Beloved husband of Ruth and much loved father of Colin and Elizabeth. Service of thanksgiving in Salruck Church, on Wednesday 26th at 11am. Family flowers only, donations if desired to The Childrens' Society, Edward Rudolph House, Margery Street, London, WC1X 0JL.

MEMORIAL SERVICES

BIRCH - Michael Noel. Memorial on Thursday 27th March 1997 at St James's Church, 197 Piccadilly, London W1, at 11 am.

BIRTHDAYS

SUSI LAVENDER is 18 today - Hooray! Love and kisses from the Stewarts.

SERVICES

PLUMP PARTNERS National Dating Agency. If you are plump or prefer a plump partner ring 01362 718909.

WANTED

MINK COATS, fox coats purchased. Best prices paid. All inquiries/details Box No 1734.

Mink 'Backback' Style Brown Bear wanted. For heart broken child, 01772 751065.

PRE 1940's clothes, linen, lace, furs, patchwork quilts, embroideries, samplers, oriental articles, shawls, textiles, costume jewellery etc 0171 229 9618.

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OBITUARIES

SIR JOHN FIGGESS

Sir John Figgess, KBE, CMG, Commissioner General for Britain, World Exposition, Osaka, 1968-70, and a director of Christie, Manson and Woods, 1975-82, died on March 20 aged 87. He was born on November 15, 1909.

A leading British authority on Japan, John Figgess and his work were involved with that country for nearly seventy years. He did secret work in Japan at the time of its invasion of China and during the build-up to the Second World War. He was involved with military intelligence in India and the postwar interrogations of Japanese war criminals. He had diplomatic service in Tokyo, culminating as Britain's alternate "ambassador" as UK Commissioner General at the 1970 Osaka World Exposition.

Finally, he had another career as an art expert, spearheading Christie's penetration of the rich Japanese market. This owed much not only to his art expertise, but to his flawless Japanese.

Through all his contacts in Japan — government, business and members of the Imperial House — Figgess could claim his part in helping Japan to re-emerge as a peaceful ally. Never an apologist for Japan, he had a keen insight into what for many is still the baffling national character.

John George Figgess was born into a family of Ulster Protestants from Enniskillen. His father, an army officer, was killed in the First World War, and his mother struggled to send him to Whitgift Middle School, Croydon.

Not being able to afford university fees, Figgess, wanting to learn Chinese, was recruited by British Intelligence and sent instead in 1933 to learn Japanese with a Tokyo family. His cover was "business". It was a turbulent time. Japan was annexing Manchuria and defying international bodies. Although Figgess, with his great height and strong nose, was to Japanese eyes the archetypal "Western devil", he was well placed to observe and warn about the threat of Japanese expansionism.

The imminence of war in Europe brought him home. He was commissioned in the Army Intelligence Corps, and attended staff college. After Pearl Harbor and Japan's occupation of most of South-East Asia, he was posted to thwart the Japanese threat to India. Based at Indian Army HQ at Delhi and then with Mountbatten's SE Asia Command, his unit deciphered intercepts of Japanese communications.

Figgess was particularly engrossed with the Victory for India Movement, whose leader Subhas Chandra Bose commanded the equivalent of two divisions in Burma on Japan's side. Although Bose's forces rarely got into action against the British, Figgess reported that his supporters believed he would return from Japan as a liberator. Instead he died in a Japanese air crash in Formosa, but the affair typically gave Figgess an earlier appreciation than most that the Raj could not continue after the war.

After 1945 he continued his Army intelligence career. He served for a year in the UK Liaison Mission to the American supremo, General Douglas MacArthur, whose task was both to occupy and to democratise the defeated enemy. Figgess had specific tasks such as interrogating Japanese commanders prior to their trial by the International Military Tribunal. But his greater purpose, as assistant military attaché until 1953, was to further Britain's interest, alongside the Americans, with the generation of men and women who were to rehabilitate Japan. Japan's first postwar Prime Minister, Shigeru Yoshida, and his family were and remained prominent among Figgess's friends.

Although he later came to question the need for the atomic bombing of Japan, Figgess believed the American occupation succeeded as one of the most benevolent and enlightened transformations of any society. But, as close observer of Chairman Mao's rise to power and the outbreak of war in Korea in 1950, he was less enchanted by MacArthur's actions, and the development of American policies. Amid loose talk of using atomic weapons to stem Communist advances, Figgess helped the Attlee



Government to exercise restraint on Washington.

After Korea, as a staff officer at the War Office's MI Directorate, Figgess was mainly preoccupied with the French collapse in Indo-China, and the subsequent partition of Vietnam. But in 1956, promoted to full colonel, he was posted back to Japan as military attache, a job in which he witnessed the birth of Japan's new Self Defence Forces, before in 1961 transferring, under Foreign Office aegis, to become information counsellor at the British Embassy

For the next nine years, Figgess ws the interpreter to Tory and Labour movements alike of the emergent Japan. From 1968 to 1970 he was Britain's effective ambassador at the Osaka World Exposition. Such was his entertaining that the funds ran out. But with brilliant unorthodoxy he saw the solution in the 60 million Japanese visitors; he had his staff risk their careers to set up schemes to sell a specially struck British medallion, as well as ice-cream. With the huge funds generated, the entertainment could be financed, and the aghast Treasury in London told only afterwards. It did not affect his well deserved appointment as KBE in 1969.

Amid the wreckage of Tokyo in 1946 Figgess met his future wife Alette Idenburg, who had just left the liberated Dutch East Indies. They married in The Hague in 1948.

It was with her, in small-scale collecting at Tokyo junk shops, that Figgess developed the taste in oriental art that was to blossom in his later years. He became a self-taught scholar, particularly of early Chinese lacquers that have survived (if not in China) so significantly in Japan since 1600. He delighted in ceramics, too. In 1960 he co-authored with Fujio Koyama *Ten Thousand Years of Oriental Ceramics* and in 1973 *The Heritage of Japanese Ceramics*. Although he also contributed to specialist journals it is the one regret of his friends that he was too busy with living to write his memoirs.

In 1972 he entered the world of international art dealing with Christie's. The firm had recruited him for his extraordinary Japanese contacts but Figgess also brought to the work his enthusiasm for the hunt for sales. In one of his more extraordinary scoops, he was at one of Britain's grander country homes inspecting what the owners thought was saleable. Figgess, not particularly impressed with what he was shown, visited the bathroom and came across a piece that seemed to be used as an umbrella stand. He came down barely able to contain his excitement: it was, he announced to the startled owners, a very rare 14th-century cold-glazed copper red piece of early Chinese porcelain. At Christie's it went for a record price of 100,000 guineas.

Figgess was respected in a wide circle of curators and collectors, in London and the Far East, and was actively engaged right up to his death. But he was particularly distinguished as a member of the expert advisory council to the Percival David Foundation of Chinese Art, attached to London University. And he was serving as president of the Oriental Ceramics Society when in 1990 he masterminded the *Porcelain for Palaces* exhibition at the British Museum — typically he had been invaluable in securing sponsorship by the Fujitsu company.

He is survived by his wife Alette, and two daughters.

WILLIAM HILTON

William Hilton, Head of Astronautics at Hawker Siddeley Aviation, 1959-62, died on March 6 aged 84. He was born on June 10, 1912.

A PIONEER among British aerospace engineers, Bill Hilton was the first to use the term "the sound barrier" when explaining his work on supersonic aerodynamics to a journalist in the (aerodynamically speaking) far-off times of the 1930s. This was the time when the biplane still ruled supreme in RAF operational squadrons and Mach1 was a concept smacking more of the novels of H.G. Wells than of anything likely to be achieved by a flesh-and-blood aviator. Hilton was in the forefront of ramjet and rocket development from the war years until the early 1960s when Britain voluntarily (and needlessly) gave up its commanding position in the field of space technology.

Thereafter, his work was concentrated on the design of satellites to which he made contributions which are still acknowledged today.

A Londoner born and bred, William Frank Hilton went from Finchley County School to the Royal College of Science where he read physics, and then to Imperial College, where, in 1935, he gained his PhD with a thesis on *Photography of Airscrew Shock Waves*.

In 1935 he joined the National Physical Laboratory where he took charge of the 12-inch square high-speed wind tunnel. By 1942 he was running it at supersonic speeds to test guided rockets, aircraft and ramjets. In 1943, using a 20-inch by 8-inch flexible-walled, high-speed wind tunnel he had designed and built himself at NPL, he studied wing body interference at supersonic speeds and in the following year investigated the aerodynamics of wind tunnel models of the Miles E24/43 supersonic aircraft.

An Air Ministry project, to be handled by Miles Aircraft, the E24/43 was the first manned supersonic aircraft project in this country and became known as the Miles M52 Supersonic Aircraft. This was advanced work at a time when the fastest British military aircraft in squadron service were still piston engined and were capable of little more than 400mph.

In the event, though no complete aircraft was ever built, Miles constructed a full-scale mock-up of the fuselage. A flying model was also built, a rocket-powered example being air-launched from a de Havilland Mosquito. But the Government subsequently decided that Britain would not build a manned supersonic aircraft, and terminated the M52 project. It was only after the Americans had broken the sound barrier through Chuck Yeager and the air-launched, rocket-powered Bell XI that the British supersonic aircraft programme was pursued afresh.

Other wartime work Hilton did at the National Physical Laboratory involved the development of the "bouncing bomb" used by the Dambusters' squadron against the Ruhr dams. He also advised on the Mulberry Harbour, the great artificial ports which were constructed from old ships, steel girders and masses of concrete, to receive the Allied invasion forces and supplies into the Normandy beachhead after D-Day.

After the war Hilton's advanced research on ramjets led to his secondment in 1946 to Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore. At the university's applied physics laboratory he was responsible for wind tunnel work on the Bumble Bee ramjet project. In 1954 he published *High Speed Aerodynamics*, which became a standard reference work on the subject.

From 1950 onwards, his work was on rockets and guided weapons. Joining Armstrong Whitworth, he was the chief aerodynamicist on the Sea Slug ship-to-air missile project — the Navy's first — for which he built a variable wind density tunnel.

In 1959 he was appointed head of astronautics at Hawker Siddeley Aviation's advanced projects group. There, his 12-man team made the first studies to be undertaken in this country of communications satellites, focusing on a system of low elliptical orbit satellites to maximise payload. Seeing the economic advantage, he proposed the use of the 63 degree inclined elliptical orbit for communications satellities in the northern hemisphere. This was recognised by scientists in the Soviet space programme and the Molniya satellites use this orbit.

In 1961 joint proposals for a communications satellite programme were put to the British Government by Hawker Siddeley and the French aerospace company Sereb, but they were not looked on with favour. Through its rejection of this opportunity to enter the multi-million dollar communications satellite industry, and its failure to capitalise on the highly-effective British rocket technology exemplified by the Blue Streak and Black Night rockets, the Government turned its back on space — and



squandered a huge investment. Hawker Siddeley, recognising the Government's lack of interest in its space projects, closed down its aeronautics section in 1962. Hilton and his valuable team of specialists were made redundant.

In 1963 Hilton became secretary of the International Astronautical Federation (IAF) and helped to found the Academy of Astronautics. In 1967 he served as assistant to the technical director of the British Aircraft Corporation. As such, he went to the United States as senior British representative on the team at Hughes Aircraft which designed the Intelstat 4 communications satellite.

One of his interests was the search for the existence of other life forms in the cosmos and he was associated with the IAF study group connected with this. He attended every meeting of the group, in whatever part of the world they were held, and only last year gave a paper at its congress in Beijing.

Hilton will be remembered as an inspirational leader in his field. The aerodynamic configurations of the re-entry vehicles he proposed in 1960 are very similar to those in use today. He continued to produce studies on space flight.

Bill Hilton enjoyed a wide range of hobbies ranging from ice-skating, ballroom dancing and skiing to playing the ukulele and collecting stamps. He is survived by his wife Joan, and by a son and two daughters.

TONY ZALE

Tony Zale, world middleweight boxing champion, 1940-48, died in Portage, Indiana, on March 20 aged 83. He was born on May 29, 1913.

WHENEVER Tony Zale and his great competitor, Rocky Graziano, stepped through the ropes for a night's fistic business, the result was sure to be one of those "slugfests" so beloved of American fight fans. The pair fought three torrid world championship battles in as many years — 1946, 1947 and 1948 — none of which required reference to the score card to adjudicate the result. All three are regarded as being classics of sheer ferocity in an era rich with middleweights — a division which has always provided the most exciting conjunction of speed, skill and punching power.

Though he was given a four-year "rest" from the ring while he served in the US Navy during the Second World War, nothing was ever made easy for Zale. He fought his way from an Indiana steelmill to a world title against some of the best men to have graced the ring at the weight, and defended it against a succession of tough fighters who were hungry to tear the world crown from his head.

Compared with today's carefully managed world championship boxing scene, in which fighters and their managers waltz cautiously around each other to secure the most lucrative of the pickings from the four or more titles which exist at each weight, the workrate of men like Zale seems almost suicidal. On his way to the title, nine or ten bouts a year against top opposition were meat and drink to him. Even after he had become established as champion he was fighting half a dozen times a year.

Of his three title fights against Graziano he won the first and the last. It was only after that — by then in his 35th year — that he finally surrendered his world title to the up-and-coming French-Algerian Marcel Cerdan.

He was born Anton Florian Zaleski, of Polish immigrant stock, in the steel town of Gary, Indiana, where he began his working life in a rolling mill. It was this background, combined with his awesome ability to soak up punishment as well as dish it out, that earned for him his sobriquet "Man of Steel" when he took up boxing.

As a boy he fought as an amateur, winning the Golden Gloves lightweight championship of his native state in 1931. Turning professional in 1934 he embarked on what was in those days the very hard road that had to be travelled before a boxer put himself into a position as a contender for championship honours. In his first year as a pro he fought an astonishing 21 contests, losing five but establishing a reputation for being a fighter who "when he hits them, they stay hit".

The pay for such an apprenticeship was derisory and for one entire year, 1936, he had to return to the steelmill in Gary, Indiana, to earn a realistic living. But he was back in the ring the following year, punching all contenders out of the way, and early in 1940 he was matched with the National Boxing Association middleweight champion, Al Hostak. Winning on points in ten rounds, he was rematched with Hostak later in the year, this time in a title fight. He knocked out Hostak in 13 rounds, but full recognition for the undisputed world title had to wait until the following year when he beat the New York State Athletic Commission's champion, Georgie Abrams.

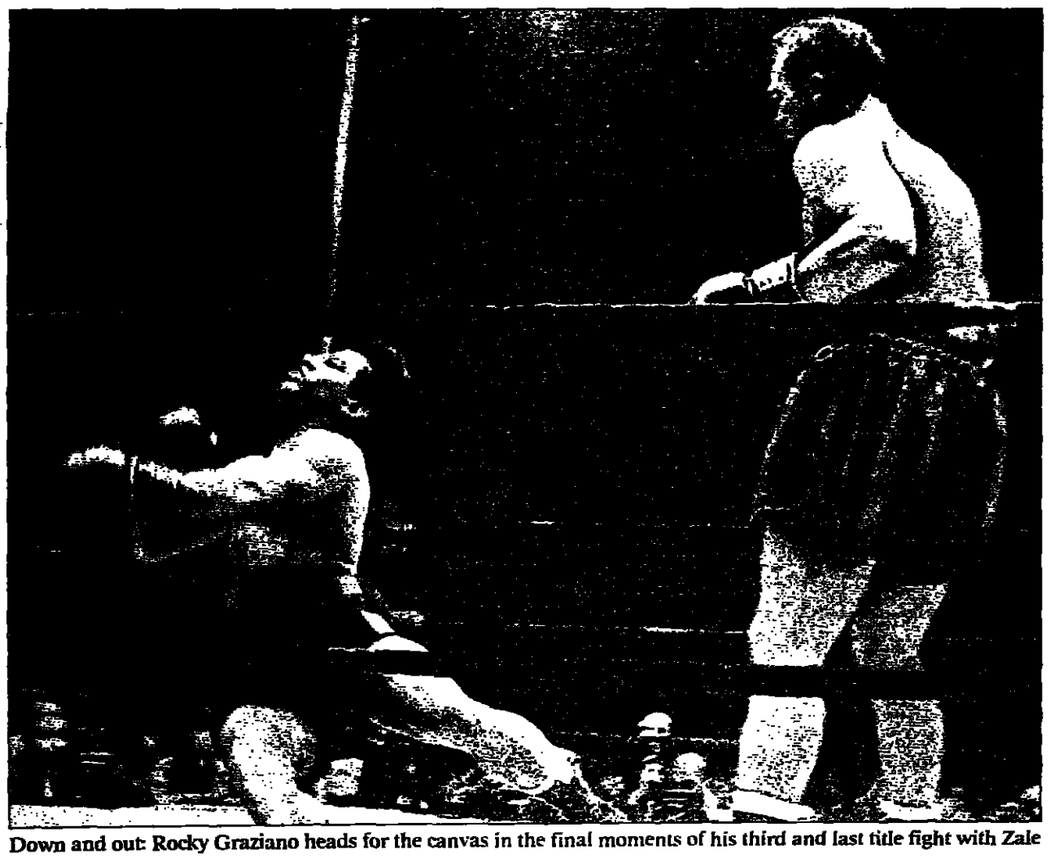
Soon after that, he joined the US Navy and it was an even more daunting boxing ethos he returned to when he finally cast off his uniform in 1946. By this time the menacing figure of Rocky Graziano, a street tearaway and criminal whose career had not been interrupted by the war, was astride the middleweight division.

The ring-rusty Zale had a number of warm-up fights before tackling Graziano at the Yankee Stadium, New York, on September 27, 1946. Zale won this, the first of three ferocious encounters, knocking his man out with a left hook to the jaw in the sixth, although he had himself been on the floor earlier in the bout. On their meeting again, in Chicago on July 16, 1947, this verdict was reversed, Graziano, seemingly on the verge of defeat, suddenly producing a vicious counter-attack to knock Zale out in the sixth and take his crown.

Public opinion, which still counted for something, however little, in those days, demanded a decider, and a third battle took place in Newark, New Jersey, on June 10, 1948. In a short but explosive contest in which the two men stood toe-to-toe raining blows on each other, Zale finally knocked out Graziano in the third, to regain his title.

The end of his career was not far away. Three months later he defended again, against the European champion Marcel Cerdan in Jersey City. His gruelling career had taken its toll, and after 12 relentless rounds he was finally knocked out. Thankfully, he had the sense to retire at that point, avoiding that awful twilight of decline which is the fate of so many fighters who do not, or cannot, quit.

In retirement Zale continued as a boxing coach for organisations such as the Catholic Youth Organisation in Chicago. His wife Philomena predeceased him, and he is survived by two daughters.



Down and out: Rocky Graziano heads for the canvas in the final moments of his third and last title fight with Zale

Church news

Recent appointments include:

The Rev Garth Barber, priest-in-charge, All Hallows, Twickenham and Chaplain, Richmond upon Thames College (London), to be Chaplain to the University of East Anglia (Norwich).

The Rev Timothy Coleman, curate-in-charge, St Peter and St Paul, Hastings, and St John the Evangelist, Hollington (Chichester), to be Vicar, St Peter, Aldborough Hatch (Chelmsford).

The Rev David Court, curate, Kinson (Salisbury), to be Priest-in-charge, Mile Cross, Norwich.

The Rev Peter Edwards, Vicar, Christ the King, Salfords, to be Rector, St Mary, Newington (Southwark).

The Rev Alan Fitch, CA, diocesan community and race relations adviser and curate (NSM), Holy Trinity, Longlevens (Gloucester), to be Vicar, All Saints' and St Thomas's, Douglas (Sodor & Man).

The Rev Simon Foster, curate, Consett, to be Priest-in-charge, St Hilda and St Columba, Darlington (Durham).

The Rev Clive French, Chaplain, and Director of Ordinands, Royal Navy, to be Rector, St Dunstan, Cheam (Southwark).

The Rev Charles Hall, Vicar, Stapleford, and Rural Dean of Beeston (Southwell), to be Team Rector, Thetford Team Ministry (Norwich).

The Rev Duncan Harris, recently with Missions to Seamen, Cyprus, to be Port Chaplain, Missions to Seamen, Hull (York).

The Rev David Hart, Chaplain, Loughborough University, to be Chaplain, Whitelands College (Southwark).

The Rev Brian Hurst, Vicar, Holy Spirit, Denton, to be also acting Rural Dean of Newcastle West.

The Rev Nigel Lacey, curate, Mildenhall Team Ministry (St Edmundsbury & Ipswich), to be Assistant Priest, St Stephen and St Wulstan, Selly Park (Birmingham).

The Rev Jonathan Lawson, curate, Usworth Team Ministry, to be Team Vicar, Usworth Team Ministry, w special responsibility for St Michael and All Angels, Sulgrave (Durham).

The Rev Ray McCullough, Vicar St Matthew with Holy Trinity, Burnley, who is to be appointed Vicar, Walton-le-Dale and Samlesbury, to be also an honorary canon of Blackburn Cathedral

The Rev Mark Norris, curate, St Bartholomew, Ruby, to be Curate St Helen, St Helens (Liverpool)

The Rev Christopher Pearson, curate, St Peter, Streatham, to be Vicar, St Agnes, Kennington Park (Southwark).

The Rev Paul Rayner, Rector, St Andrew with St Peter, South Shoebury, to be Vicar, St Michael and All Angels, Loughton (Chelmsford)

The Rev Adrian Robbins-Cole, curate St Stephen South Dulwich, to be Vicar, Holy Cross, Margate Park (Southwark).

The Rev Nigel Salter, Vicar Hughers Hearth (Birmingham), to be Assistant Chaplain Greenwich Healthcare NHS Trust (Southwark)

The Rev Nigel Stone, Vicar, St Paul, Brixton, to be Kingston Area Mission Team Member and Diocesan Adult Education and Training Officer (Southwark)

The Rev Mark Tanner, Priest-in-charge Holy Trinity Southwell, to be Vicar, Holy Trinity, Southwell, and discontinue as part-time Research officer to the Bishop of Southwell.

The Rev Rebecca Watts, Chaplain, Wadham College, Oxford, and curate, Oxford St Mary the Virgin (Oxford), to continue as Chaplain of Wadham College only.

The Rev Dr Samuel Wells, curate, Cherry Hinton with Teversham (Ely), to be Priest-in-charge, St Elizabeth, Eaitham (Norwich)

Canon Anthony Wilds Vicar, St Mary, Andover with Foxcott (Winchester), to be Team Rector, Solihull Team Ministry (St Alphege) (Birmingham)

The Rev Martin Lloyd Williams, curate, Bath Walcot, to be Rector, St Michael with St Paul, Bath

Withdrawal of acceptance

The Rev Norman Swainson, Rector, Jarrow Grange (Durham), has withdrawn, for health reasons, his acceptance of the post of Priest-in-charge, plurality of Cockfield and Lynesack, same diocese

THE OVERLAND MAIL. DEFEAT OF THE SIKHS.

BY EXTRAORDINARY EXPRESS

We delayed publication to the latest possible hour at the despatch of last steamer, in expectation of receiving full and authentic tidings of a reverse said to have occurred near Loodianah, but obtained none. Sir Harry Smith's division proceeded according to orders about the 19th, to march in the direction of Loodianah to reinforce the division under Colonel Godby, considered too weak to be opposed to the formidable body of Sikhs then entrenched in the neighbourhood.

The force in all amounted to nearly 8,000 men. On the 20th an express arrived, intimating that the Loodianah regiments were hemmed in ... The greater portion of the troops were encamped between Buddewal and Loodianah — the 36th Native Infantry and Nusseeree battalion being alone near the town. The Sikhs now apprehending an attack, in turn abandoned Buddewal, and withdrew to a more advantageous position. Colonel Wheeler's brigade joined on the 25th, and a few days being allowed for rest and arrangements, it was resolved that an attack by the united force should be made on the 28th.

ON THIS DAY

March 24, 1846

The first Sikh War (1845-46) ended with a treaty at Lahore on March 9. The action described here took place in February. The second war (1848-49) saw the defeat of the Sikhs and the annexation of the Punjab.

The Sikh force had originally consisted of 20,000 men with 56 guns: on the 26th they were reinforced by the addition of 12 guns and 4,000 men — all regular well-disciplined troops. The strength of their position was the village of Ulleewul.

On the 28th the united divisions, consisting of 12,000 men and 32 guns, marched at daybreak from Buddewal in the direction of the enemy's camp. At the village of Churek we first got sight of the enemy. They advanced some distance beyond their entrenchments towards our division, and commenced a heavy cannonade on our troops. The village of Aleewal, the important point, was now stormed by our troops. The whole line now pressed on and stormed the batteries everywhere, carrying the guns at the bayonet's point.

Charge after charge of our Cavalry broke and cut up the enemy as they endeavoured to rally. The 16th Lancers and 3d Cavalry suffered most severely; of the former 110 were killed or wounded in charging the enemy's guns, and in striving, and that most successfully, to break a square of a Khalsa regiment, which was quicky dispersed or cut to pieces. In this latter service 200 of the Irregular Horse, under Captain Hill, and 700 of the Shekawattee Brigade, eminently distinguished themselves.

The Sikhs fought gallantly, and their guns were excellently served; they opened at 10, and were not silenced till 1 o'clock — many of the artillerymen remaining till bayoneted at their posts. By noon the enemy were broken: they were driven by repeated charges of cavalry and infantry into, and across, the river. Many were drowned in attempting to escape.

Nothing could exceed the gallantry of the troops: the artillery was precise, steady, and destructive; the cavalry charges brilliant: and the infantry as determined, steady, and orderly, as if a ball-practice parade, and not a pitched battle, had been in hand ...

NEWS

Army code to end gays ban

■ Army officers are drawing up a new code of moral conduct which would effectively remove the ban on homosexuals and change the current strict attitude towards adultery.

Senior Army officers rewriting the discipline and standards guidelines which were last updated in 1993, believe it is no longer justified to treat individuals differently on the basis of their sexuality Page 1

France welcomes lone sailor hero

■ France took Pete Goss to its heart when the British yachtsman finished his epic solo round-the-world voyage and was welcomed by more than a hundred thousand people in glorious spring weather. He was greeted by Raphael Dinelli, the French sailor whose life he saved in the Southern Ocean after his boat capsized Page 1

Tension rises

Middle East tension increased as Hamas threatened more suicide attacks against Israeli targets and violence continued in various parts of the occupied West Bank Pages 1, 10

Business wooed

Tony Blair and Gordon Brown stepped up Labour's efforts to woo business by promising a seat for the CBI on a committee to prepare for Britain's presidency of the EU in 1998 Page 1

Go back to jail

More than half of all prisoners released from jail are reconvicted within two years, the Home Office says Page 2

Stowaway dies

The body of a boy was found in the wheel bay of a British Airways jumbo jet after it landed at Gatwick. Ground crew discovered the boy, aged between eight and 12, in an aircraft from Nairobi Page 3

Payments to MPs

Mohamed Al-Fayed, the owner of Harrods, lost track of payments he made to MPs but claims Neil Hamilton accepted between £40,000 and £60,000 Page 4

Whale of a job

Thousands of sightseeers lined both banks of the river Forth to watch a flotilla of boats attempt to shepherd a 40ft sperm whale to safety Page 5

Woman rabbi row

One of the country's leading synagogues is divided over whether it should appoint a woman as senior rabbi. Accusations of prejudice have been made at the West London Synagogue Page 8

Eye surgery alert

Cut-price laser treatment to correct short sight may lead to a fall in standards. The price has dropped from about £1,500 per eye to less than £300 Page 9

Careful visitor

Al Gore, the American Vice-President, will need to step gingerly when he sets foot in Beijing for four days of talks Page 11

Rebel leader

Laurent Kabila, the rebel Zairean leader, has been fighting against President Mobutu most of his life, sustaining his war efforts by allegedly indulging in gold smuggling in Kivu Page 12

Yeltsin protests

Protests greeted President Yeltsin when he returned from his summit the opposition condemned agreements with President Clinton as "capitulation" Page 14

Hong Kong clock

Hundreds of people, some carrying banners like "Hong Kong comes home", cheered in Tiananmen Square as a huge electronic clock marking the number of days until China takes over the colony turned to 100 Page 14

A tale of Rachel, Emma and Oscar

■ Cinema history has been made by an unheard-of woman whose work has probably been heard by millions. Rachel Portman is the first female composer to be nominated for an Oscar. One of 31 Britons nominated for an Oscar — the awards ceremony for which is tonight — she was singled out for the music she wrote for *Emma* Page 3

PAT ROQUE/AP



A boy peers through palm fronds being waved by Roman Catholics in Manila yesterday to celebrate Palm Sunday

BUSINESS

Going hostile: The extraordinary £5 billion bid battle between Germany's two biggest steel-makers could turn nasty again Page 48

Going shopping: A pre-election consumer boom will present the next Chancellor with an uncomfortable predicament and exert upward pressure on interest rates, according to an authoritative economic forecast Page 48

Smoke signals: Heavy litigation in the US by former smokers is forcing BAT Industries to consider splitting into two, and demerging its cigarette business Page 48

New alliance: Two Scottish companies, an insurer and an electricity producer, have formed a joint venture to cross-sell their respective products Page 44

ARTS

Melvyn Bragg: "The Oscars are a way in which we, over here, while knowing ourselves to be Davids in the land of film, pitch ourselves boldly against the big Californian Goliaths" Page 18

Versatile performer: Jimmy Nail proves he can still sing as well as act, producing two hours of great music in his Wembley Arena concert Page 18

Shedding new light: The Walker Art Gallery in Liverpool celebrates the work of the underrated Victorian painter Sir Lawrence Alma-Tadema Page 18

Star team: The Royal Ballet fields its two biggest female stars — Sylvie Guillem and Darcey Bussell — on the opening night of its revival of *La Bayadère* Page 19

FEATURES

Glowing smoothness: Finding a cream that makes ageing skin young is the dream of every cosmetic company. An Israeli laboratory may have some answers Page 15

Bun fight: A highly public row between two restaurateurs is giving New Yorkers their best laugh in ages Page 16

Clean sweep: When you have finished doing the housework, when there is dust in your hair and Jif under your fingernails and the scummy ring around the bath has vanished, you have, to your delight, *accomplished something* Page 17

Old threads: Home sewing — good, old-fashioned, thumb-pricking, cotton-twiddling sewing — is making a comeback in the United States Page 17

SPORT

Football: Glenn Hoddle, the England coach, is struggling with an extensive casualty list as he prepares for the international match against Mexico Page 25

Rugby union: Italy enhanced their claims for a place in an enlarged five nations' championship by defeating France — who nine days ago became champions — 40-32 in Grenoble Page 32

Ice skating: Tara Lipinski, 14, stole the judges' hearts and they made her the women's world champion figure skater. "Doubtless she has a soul, equally certainly she has not located it yet" Page 27

Golf: José María Olazábal, of Spain, won the Turespaña Masters in Gran Canaria. It was only his third tournament after an 18-month lay-off with foot problems Page 26

Athletics: Paula Radcliffe struck a small blow for Europe in the world cross country championships in Turin when she took the silver medal in the senior women's race Page 27

Racing: If a Labour Government is elected, a new chairman of the Tote will be appointed from a short-list of four Page 35



TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

■ POETS CORNER
Seamus Heaney talks about working with Ted Hughes on a new poetry anthology

■ LAW
Lawyers who act for clients without charge: Frances Gibb reports

14, 27, 39, 40, 41, 43. Bonus: 21

Three tickets each won £4,662,084 in a rollover jackpot; 13 won £236,259 for five numbers and bonus; 811 won £2,366 for five numbers.

Preview: The Dinner Party, middle-England discusses the Tories (Channel 4, 9pm). *Review: Have Your Cake and Eat* was quite, quite brilliant Page 47

Hard labour

Nothing will be more important for Blair than to resist old Labour's siren calls to re-regulate the workplace — and nothing will be harder Page 21

Russia's pride

Russians have long memories, a strong sense of their country's history and dangerous resentments. The West should not gloat about using this window of opportunity to enlarge Nato Page 21

Class distinctions

Britain's universities boast undergraduates who are more than a degree apart. A new survey reveals an aristocracy alongside an impoverished rump Page 21

COLUMNS

WILLIAM REES-MOGG

Tony Blair is resented by many Scottish Labour supporters as an Englishman with a fancy accent who has hijacked their party. The qualities that make Tony Blair popular in England tend to tell against him in Scotland Page 20

PETER RIDDELL

Tony Blair should start taking some risks. He often says privately, "you don't think I have been so radical with the Labour party only to be cautious in government" 20

FOREIGNERS

Sir John Figgess, authority on Japan; William Hilton, aerospace pioneer; Tony Zale, boxer Page 23

LETTERS

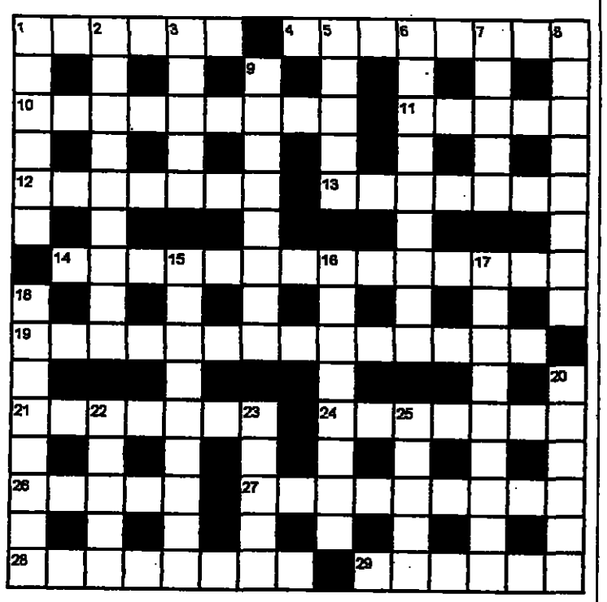
Public interest; Tory hopes and Labour's record; Albania; assisted places; "happy clappy" services; German map auction Page 21

THE PAPERS

Perhaps the Albanian crisis will force us to face the fact that in the post Cold War world, we have to grow up a bit and realise that America is not around to make our decisions. — *Corriere Della Sera*

Already too tolerant with Mr Netanyahou over the question of Jerusalem, America must not accept his "new approach." It heralds more dark days — *Le Monde*

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,435



ACROSS

1 A university man unknown on the river (6).
4 Female long on cheek might well be this (8).
10 Display good horsemanship escorting leader of brigands into jail (9).
11 Always carrying books to make records (5).
12 Reportedly masters something that's child's play (7).
13 Part of church where Liberal appears fortuitously? (7).
14 Become active and move own cricket gear (4,4,6).
19 In response to reference marks, stressed and up in arms (2,7,5).
21 Pitch where snake appears to proceed hesitatingly (7).
24 Hard rubber in erasers originally to be recycled (7).
26 Worker in firm producing section of poem (5).
27 Animal in a Parisian outhouse, safe and sound (9).
28 Line of verse about a line in mathematics (8).
29 Gorge from food container over there (6).

DOWN

1 Battle, possibly, for such high ecclesiastical office (6).
2 Estranged woman sheltered by girl and boy (9).
3 Mostly comply with directions associated with large corporation (5).
5 Shrub's flower cut across (5).
6 E.g. McGonagall dipping into *The Raven*? (9).
7 Greek screen with ends trimmed (5).
8 Vigorous description of an American boneshaker? (8).
9 Characters assumed to take exercise, with strange reason (8).
15 Deciphered a grim character's rambling tale (9).
16 Woman Sir Patrick kept in a state of uncertainty (8).
17 Milky wash splashed around in drippy fashion (9).
18 Just so books ought to be (8).
20 Sinew displayed by heavyweight securing goal (6).
22 Creature with father's letters (5).
23 Conservative involved in genuine ceasefire (5).
25 Mid-West city invaded by Americans one summer (5).

The solution of Saturday's Prize Puzzle No 20,434 will appear next Saturday. The five winners will each receive a £20 book token.

Times Two Crossword, page 48

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HOURS OF DARKNESS

Sun rises: 5.54 am — Sun sets: 6.21 pm

Moon sets 6.03 am — Moon rises 8.49 pm

Full moon today

London 6.21 pm to 5.52 am
Bristol 6.30 pm to 6.02 am
Edinburgh 6.35 pm to 6.02 am
Manchester 6.30 pm to 5.59 am
Penzance 6.42 pm to 6.14 am

NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING
Recycled paper made up 41.2% of the raw material for UK newspapers in the first half of 1996

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AirUK

FORECAST

☐**General:** Rain in Scotland and N. Ireland will clear to drier, sunny intervals. Rain later. Cloud across England and Wales, rain following. Sunny intervals in West in afternoon, rather windy. Slight ground frost in East, temperatures near normal.

☐**London, SE England, E Anglia, E England:** Cloudy. Patchy rain or drizzle slowly dying out later. Wind light or moderate. Max 12C (54F).

☐**Central S England, E Midlands, W Midlands, Channel Isles, NW England, Lake District, Central N, NE England:** Rain or drizzle for a while, then drier but still cloudy. Wind light or moderate. Max 11C (52F).

☐**SW England, S Wales, N Wales, Isle of Man:** Rain clearing by midday, then some sun. Wind moderate or fresh. Max 11C (52F).

☐**Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, SW Scotland, Glasgow, Central Highlands, Moray Firth, NE Scotland, Argyll, NW Scotland:** Rain or showers, then some sun. Wind moderate or fresh. Max 10C (50F).

☐**Orkney, Shetland:** Mostly wet. Wind mainly south or south-east light or moderate. Max 7C (45F).

☐**N Ireland:** Sunny spells and showers, cloud and rain later. Wind north-west fresh becoming south-west strong later. Max 10C (50F).

☐**Outlook for Tuesday and Wednesday:** Unsettled, with rain at times. Becoming windy in North.

AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

24 hrs to 5 pm: b=bright; c=cloud; d=drizzle; ds=dust storm; du=dull; f=fair; fg=fog; g=gale; h=hail; r=rain; sh=shower; sl=sleet; sn=snow; s=sun; t=thunder

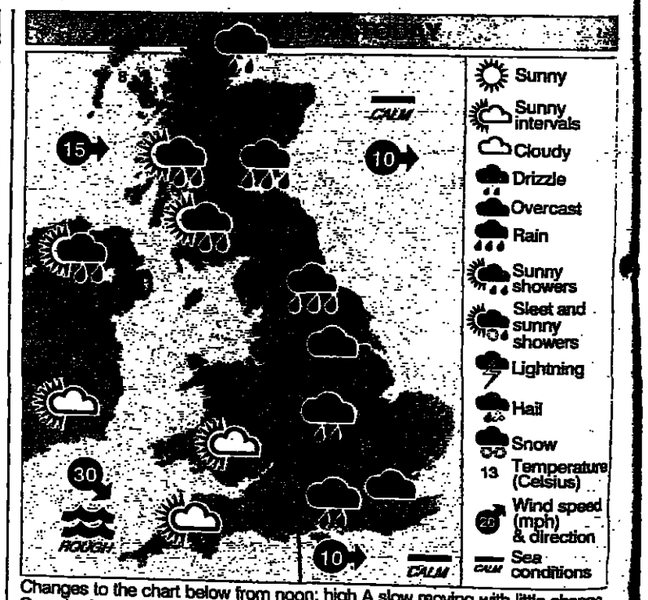
	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F			Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Aberdeen	2.8	0.01	10	50	c	Leuchars	5.2	0.03	12	54	s
Anglesey	0.6	0.09	11	52	d	Littlehmptn	1.8	0.02	11	52	b
Aspatria	1.8	0.54	12	54	c	London	0.7	0.08	13	55	sh
Aviemore	3.2	0.01	7	45	r	Lowestoft	1.5	0.09	11	52	sh
Belfast	0.6	0.02	11	52	c	Manchester	1.1	0.19	11	52	c
Birmingham	1.8	0.02	11	52	sh	Minshead	-	-	11	52	c
Bognor R	2.0	0.02	11	52	c	Morecambe	2.3	0.28	12	54	r
Bournem'th	0.4	-	13	55	c	Newcastle	0.7	0.02	11	52	b
Bristol	2.1	-	12	54	c	Norwich	-	0.10	11	52	sh
Buxton	0.7	0.52	9	48	r	Oxford	0.2	0.04	12	54	c
Cardiff	-	0.01	11	52	c	Penzance	X	0.01	14	57	c
Colwyn Bay	-	0.13	9	48	c	Poole	2.1	-	13	55	c
Cromer	1.2	0.02	10	50	c	Prestatyn	X	0.09	10	50	c
Eastbourne	2.0	0.01	12	54	c	Ross-o-wye	2.0	-	13	55	c
Edinburgh	1.9	0.01	13	55	b	Salcombe	0.5	-	13	55	c
Exmouth	2.1	-	12	54	c	Sandown	3.5	0.01	12	54	c
Falmouth	2.2	-	13	55	c	Scarboro'	1.6	0.05	10	50	c
Fishguard	0.1	0.01	9	48	c	Shanklin	3.7	-	12	54	s
Folkestone	3.5	0.01	13	55	c	Shrewsbury	0.2	0.02	11	52	sh
Glasgow	7.3	0.23	14	57	s	Southport	3.3	0.13	11	52	c
Hastings	3.7	0.02	13	55	s	Southsea	2.7	-	12	54	c
Hayling I.	2.5	0.01	12	54	d	Stornoway	1.6	0.01	11	52	c
Herne Bay	1.0	0.03	12	54	sh	Swanage	2.3	-	13	55	c
Hove	1.6	0.01	12	54	du	Teignmouth	2.0	-	13	55	c
Hunstanton	X	0.04	10	50	sh	Tenby	0.6	-	12	54	c
Isle of Man	4.1	0.11	11	52	s	Tiree	5.6	0.42	11	52	c
Jersey	3.4	0.01	13	55	b	Torquay	2.1	-	14	57	b
Kinloss	6.5	0.01	13	55	s	Ventnor	4.0	-	14	57	s
Leeds	0.9	0.13	11	52	sh	West-s-mare	2.1	-	13	55	c
Lerwick	-	0.17	7	45	r	Weymouth	3.3	-	12	54	b

ABROAD

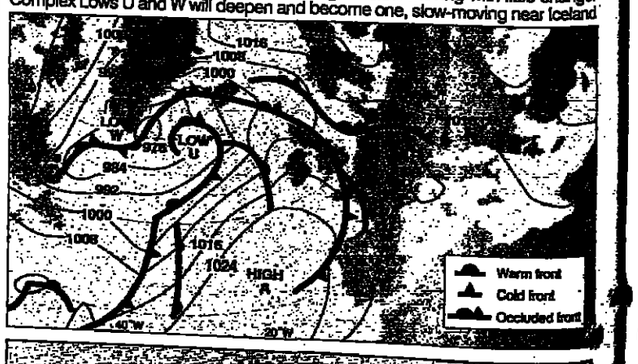
Ajaccio	18	61	s	C'phgn	3	37	f
Akrotiri	14	57	s	Dublin	11	52	c
Alex'dria	17	63	f	Dubrovnik	10	50	s
Algiers	18	64	s	Faro	20	68	s
Amst'dm	7	45	c	Florence	16	61	s
Athens	13	55	f	Frankfurt	8	43	f
B Aires	22	72	r	Funchal	18	64	s
Bahrain	24	75	s	Geneva	11	52	c
Bangkok	35	95	s	Gibraltar	19	66	s
Barbados	29	84	f	Helsinki	-2	28	f
Barcelona	15	59	s	Hong K	16	61	r
Beirut	12	54	f	Innsbruck	10	50	s
Belgrade	4	39	f	Istanbul	4	39	f
Berlin	6	43	f	Jeddah	30	86	s
Bermuda	21	70	f	Jo'burg	23	73	f
Biarritz	14	57	s	Karachi	X		
Borde'x	19	66	s	L Angels	16	61	f
Brussels	7	45	r	L Palmas	21	70	f
Budapst	5	41	c	Le Tquet	10	50	f
Cairo	17	63	f	Lisbon	24	75	s
Cape Tn	24	75	s	Locarno	10	50	s
Ch'church	13	55	-	Luxembg	6	43	f
Chicago	4	39	f	Luxor	25	77	s
Cologne	7	45	f	Madrid	18	64	s
Corfu	13	55	s	Majorca	18	64	f
Malaga	19	66	s	S Paulo	25	77	c
Malta	18	61	f	Salzburg	7	45	s
Melb'rne	17	63	f	Santiago	15	59	t
Mexico C	X			Seoul	7	45	c
Miami	27	81	s	Sing'por	33	91	f
Milan	15	59	f	St'kholm	2	36	s
Montreal	-1	30	s	Stresb'rg	8	46	c
Moscow	-6	21	c	Sydney	24	75	s
Munich	8	46	f	Tangier	19	66	s
N Delhi	24	75	s	Tel Aviv	12	54	r
N York	11	52	s	Tenerife	21	70	f
Nairobi	28	82	f	Tokyo	7	45	r
Naples	16	61	f	Toronto	-3	27	s
Nice	16	61	s	Tunis	19	66	f
Oslo	3	37	f	Valencia	16	64	s
Paris	11	52	c	Vanc'ver	7	45	c
Peking	11	52	s	Venice	9	48	f
Perth	25	77	s	Vienna	4	39	f
Prague	4	39	f	Warsaw	1	34	f
Reykjavik	0	32	f	Wash'ton	16	61	f
Rhodes	11	52	s	Wel'ngton	14	57	-
Rio de J	28	82	f	Zurich	7	45	f
Riyadh	30	86	s				
Rome	15	59	f				
S Fr'isco	14	57	s				

Temperatures at midday local time. X = not available

WEATHER



Changes to the chart below from noon: high A slow moving with little change. Complex Lows U and W will deepen and become one, slow-moving near Iceland



HIGH TIDES

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT	TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	02.00	7.0	14.19	7.1	Leith	02.47	5.2	15.08	5.4
Aberdeen	01.30	4.0	13.39	4.1	Liverpool	11.29	9.2	23.44	9.2
Avonmouth	07.23	12.8	19.42	12.9	Lowestoft	09.54	2.3	21.51	2.5
Belfast	11.14	3.4	23.32	3.2	Margate	00.02	4.5	12.27	4.5
Cardiff	07.09	11.9	19.26	12.0	Milford Haven	06.24	6.7	18.41	6.7
Devonport	05.51	5.4	18.10	5.3	Newquay	05.15	6.7	17.32	6.7
Dover	11.18	6.3	23.34	6.5	Oban	05.50	3.8	18.21	3.9
Dublin (N Wall)	11.51	3.9	23.59	3.8	Penzance	04.48	5.4	17.03	5.3
Falmouth	05.22	5.2	17.41	5.1	Portland	07.02	1.8	19.27	1.8
Greenock	00.54	3.0	12.48	3.2	Portsmouth	11.30	4.4	23.53	4.5
Harwich	-	-	12.13	3.8	Shoreham	11.24	5.9	23.44	6.1
Holyhead	10.33	5.5	22.48	5.4	Southampton	10.58	4.4	23.15	4.4
Hull (Albert D)	08.32	8.4	18.41	8.7	Swansea	06.33	9.4	18.49	9.3
Ilfracombe	06.10	8.8	18.27	8.9	Tees	03.50	5.0	16.00	5.2
King's Lynn	06.39	6.3	18.46	6.6	Walton-on-N	-	-	12.06	4.0

All times GMT. Heights in metres.

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Yesterday: Highest day temp: Glasgow airport 14C (57F); lowest day max:Lerwick, Shetland 7C (45F); highest rainfall: Keswick, Cumbria 0.63in; highest sunshine: Glasgow airport 7.3hr

Weather summary by quattro.

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